

THE
HISTORY

OF THE *Polit. Pamph. Vol. 86.*
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MANDARINS and PROATINS

OF THE

BRITOMARTIAN Empire,

AT THEIR

Three last General Diets; with the
Characters of the Chief Members; and
a List of those that were Prefer'd
to Places.

The Second Edition.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year, MDCCXIII.

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T H E
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THE Second Edition of this History is not so much owing to the Demands of the People, as the Temper that is now growing upon us, of accommodating Old Occurrences to the Present State of Affairs. The Archives of Greece and Rome have been ransack'd, to satisfy the Curiosities of this Nature, and we are come to such a Pass, as to give into the Opinion, that nothing is Transacted in this Age, but what has been upon the Stage in the First Infancy of the World. These Sentiments occasion'd the Publication of this Old Manuscript from the Original, and has given Birth to its seeing the Light with some Additions that have come to Hand. I am no ways solicitous about the Success of it, having this
to

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to Comfort me, that the more abstruse it is, it will be the more Acceptable, and that if nothing else can recommend it, the Ambition some People in Request now have, of Eucleating hidden Relations, and making Comments upon dark and obscure Texts, will encourage the Sale of it. What I have further to alledge, is, That if the Reader is in love with Contradictions, he will find them here, and if he has a relish for premeditated and deliberated Follies, they are here adapted to his Taste. In a Word, if he would have Particular Advantages invested with the Name of General, if he would Censure and Disown one Day, and the next Applaud and Receive, if he would be taught all the Arts of Shifting and Varying thro' every Point of the Compass, here he will find Instructors; so that he has nothing to do, but to look in and Learn, for its grown into a Fashion now with those that cannot find a Key ready to their Hands, to make one.

T H E

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE

Mandarins and Proatins, &c.

IN the Infancy of the World, when Superstition was introduc'd by the Priesthood, to bring People under an implicit Obedience to its Arbitrary Dictates, and Bigotry was thought necessary for the Establishment of an absolute and unlimited Dominion, it was with the Empire of *Bri-tomartia* as with other States; and those that Administer'd in holy Matters, (according to the Language of the Country call'd *Sacristo's*) took upon them to prescribe Rules to Princes, and exact the Performance of their Injunctions from Crown'd Heads. This the Empress *Palatina* had prudently observ'd to be a great Diminution of Her Sovereign Authority: And in some time after Her Advancement to the Throne, (in the Room of the Deceas'd *Aurantio*) by the means of some faithful Counsellors, who foresaw the Evil Consequences of it, Extri-

eated herself out of the tame Submission her
 former Credulity had made Her shew to
 their Pious and Religious Frauds. From
 thence-forward, She grew into the Highest
 Reputation with all the *Potentates* of the
 Earth, and Her Arms wheresoever they
 were order'd to subdue and Conquer execu-
 ted Her Commands. In a Word, She was
 the Terror of Her Enemies, and the Delight
 of Her Friends, and there was not a Prince
 in the whole Universe that did not either
 Court her Alliance, or dread to enter into
 any thing like a Confederacy against Her.
 Sea and Land continued to furnish her with
 occasions of fresh Triumphs, and repeated
 Victories, made appear the Wisdom of the
 Administration at Home, and the well con-
 certed Measures that were taken Abroad.
 So that all Things occur'd to the Increase
 of Her Glory, and scarce any Accident of
 Moment fell out, which did not Contribute
 to the Honour of Her and Her People. But
 as in all Governments, there are those that
 malign at Exalted Merit, and bear Ill Will
 to others Advancement; so it happen'd a-
 mong those that were Ambitious of Court
 Preferment, that several Disbanded Minist-
 ers of State in Conjunction with the Priests
 who were for hurrying *Palatina* into Violent
 Measures against all Religions but their own,
 so work'd themselves into a Belief with the
 Commonalty, that the National Worship
 was

was in Danger from Her Imperial Majesty's Indulgence to scrupulous Consciences, and the Exorbitant Power, which was pretended to be exercised by those who were at the Helm of Government immediately under Her, that She not only gave into the Schemes of Her Domestick Enemies by Displacing Her best Friends, but Assented to the desires of the Majority of her People, who were drawn into those Measures by the Artifices above mention'd, in calling a new Diet of the Empire, and Issuing out Edicts for their being conven'd together about *Arduous*, and Important Affairs.

It is not to be doubted, but the Choice of *New* Deputies was answerable to their Wishes, who had prevail'd for the Dismission of the *Old*, and since their Authority, who had before Officiated in the Chief Posts and Dignities was sunk to nothing, it is but reasonable to conclude, that those who were Invested with them had a mighty Superiority; Because where the Prey is to be found, there Assemble the *Ravens*, and Men of Voracious Appetites cannot but know, there is no Satiety to be expected from Tables that are stripp'd of their wonted Delicacies.

Therefore after Elections had been carried in all the Provinces and Districts of the Empire, to the satisfaction of those that influenc'd them from above, and it was apparent the Court had carried their Point

by a great Majority ; Both Orders and Degrees of Men in this Illustrious Diet, met it as had been accustomed, in the *Pretorian-Hall*, to Consult about the Necessities of the State, (which was the chief Motive of there being called together) and the Welfare and Advantage of the People.

The first of these Two Estates were the *Mandarines*, or the *Nobles* of the Empire, whose high Employment was to sit as Supreme Judges in Matters of Law ; a Court of Judicature, from which there was no Appeal, to give Advice to the Sovereign in Cases of Emergence, and to Redress the Grievances of such as apply'd to them in matters of Injury or Oppression. They sat likewise as a Ballance of Power between the Prerogatives of the Crown, and the Rights and Immunities of the Subject, and nothing could pass into a *Decreto*, whether it related to Aids and Supplies of Money in Times of War, or other Casualties, to the Punishment of Offenders, whose Crimes were of an extraordinary Nature, and seemingly above the Cognizance of Inferior Courts, or to the Confirmation, or Abrogation of Privileges of Bodies Corporate, or private Persons, without their Concurrence.

The Second Estate consisted of the Wealthier and Wiser part of the Commonalty, who being selected out from the whole *Populace*, were sent as Deputies to represent the

the several Cities, Towns and Provinces, under the Empreſſes Dominion, (whereas, thoſe before Named were each of them, and ſeverally their own Representatives) and theſe were called the *Proatins*. They ſate in the *Pretorian-Hall* as the Grand Inqueſt of the Empire, had the ſole Right of raiſing extraordinary Subſidies, and the Liberty of preparing and Promulging ſuch Laws, as ſeem'd moſt Conducive to the Good and Tranquillity of the Empire, and the Advantage of thoſe that choſe them. It alſo belong'd to them, to Inſpect the Management of the *Fifcalio*, and other Publick Offices, to enquire into Abuſes that had crep'd into the Adminiſtration, and to make Obſervations upon ſuch Things as fell more immediately under their Notice, relating to Complaints of Corrupt Practices, or Representations to the Throne, when the Funds they had given fell ſhort of ſupplying the Neceſſities of the State, by the means of the Perſons in whoſe Hands they were intruſted.

The *Reader* being thus appriz'd of what was Incumbent upon each Order of Men, that Compos'd this Auguſt Aſſembly, is to be told in the next Place, that it was the Prerogative of the Imperial Dignity, either to give a Sanction to ſuch Laws as had been mutually agreed to, between theſe Two Eſtates, from whence they were called *Decreto's*, or elſe, to reject them, by a Re-

refusal of its Assent, which made them altogether invalid, and of no Authority or Force. It was customary also at the Beginning of every *Session*, for so their Meeting was call'd, for Him, or Her, who was Invested with the Sovereignty, to lay before them the Reasons of their being thus Assembled, which was at this Time to find out necessary Ways and means for carrying on a War, which had been Honourably begun, and Successfully continued against the Tyrannical Encroachments of a Perfidious Prince, that aim'd at nothing less than Universal Monarchy. Wherefore the Empress *Palatina* having set before Them, "the Confidence She had in the Love and Duty of
 " Her Subjects, by dismissing the last *Diet*
 " and Old Counsellors, and in supplying
 " their Places with the new Deputies and
 " Ministry, lamented the heavy Debts
 " which every Branch of the Revenue was
 " charg'd with, ask'd Supplies from the *Pro-*
 " *atins* (whose sole Business it was to raise
 " them) assur'd them of Her readiness to
 " comply with any Measures, that should
 " be taken to prevent any Incumbrances for
 " the future, and told them She expected
 " their Concurrence in all things, that should
 " Conduce to the further Establishment and
 " Security of the National Worship, the
 " Interest of their Country, and the Ad-
 " vancement of Her Honour, She laid Her
 Commands

Commands upon the *Proatins* to chuse an *Oratorio*, and so left what She had said to their respective Considerations.

Now this *Oratorio*, was to be a Person well Vers'd in the Constitution of the Empire, of a discerning Judgment, and of Uncommon Abilities, to carry him through the Duties of so Important a Trust. His Office was to propose any Motion made by any Member that was thought to be Beneficial to the Publick, to lay Petitions before them, that Sued either for the Redress of Old Grievances, or requested the Concession of new Privileges, and to have Access to the Throne upon all Occasions, by way of Remonstrance against whatsoever Encroachments or Invasions should be made upon the Liberties of the Subject. But as these Gentlemen were for the greatest Part, rather chosen to serve a particular Set of Men, than the Interest of their Country; so they did not Elect a Person to this High Dignity, altogether from the Consideration of the foregoing Character, but had other Motives in View, which were of great Weight with them, to fix upon a Man that should readily give into the Measures that had been before Concerted. They knew that *Don Wilhelmino* was an Irreconcilable Enemy, to such as were against precipitate and dangerous Experiments; they put the greatest Confidence imaginable his Zeal for,

for, and *Bigotry* to, the *Montalti's* Principles which breath'd nothing but Persecution, and they had made Tryal upon several Occasions of his unalterable Resolution to be still complaining without a Cause, and always pushing at Endeavours to remedy Grievances that never were in Being. Wherefore they pitch'd upon Him to preside in their Session, after *Don Thomasio*, a Deputy of the Equestrian-Rank had Harangued Him into that Post, and affirm'd that he would deservedly fill it, by the Knowledge he had gain'd in making the *Tour of Lavinia*, and the great Insight he had given the Learned World from the Discoveries he had made of the Customs, and Policies of Foreign Countries.

This *Thomasio*, had indeed great Parts to boast of, as well as a very Antient Descent, but neither his Birth nor Education, could Atone for some Imperfections which he too easily gave way to. He was Proud; Vindictive; Impatient of Contradiction; Deaf to the Voice of real Danger; and ready upon all Occasions to hearken to imaginary Fears. He hated his Superiors, only because they were so, and form'd Cabals against Men in Places of Trust, because he had not at that Time, any Dignity or Preferment offer'd Him, which He thought equal to his Merit which he always Over-rated: In short, he was always complaining of Abuses

buses in the Administration, that he might get into it Himself, and finding Fault with Officers in Power, that he might one Day be a subject of an other Mans Envy, for the same Preferment and Dignity.

Don Rodolpho and *Don Carlo*, were of the very same Complexion, and by the means of a Fluency of Speech, and a dissembled Zeal for the Interest of their Country, exclusive of their own, had so Insinuated themselves into the good liking of other pretended Patriots, as to have a Mighty Prevalence over them in all Matters and Causes that were submitted to their Notice. They had before impos'd upon their *Electors*, by their specious Artifices of doing all Things for the Ease and Advantage of their Country, of releasing them from all further Imposts and Taxes, and making Money Circulate in such a manner as had not been known in the Times of Tranquility and Peace: And now they were employ'd by such as sat at the Helm of Affairs, to gain upon the Credulous and unwary Tempers of other Members, by prevailing with them to Consent to the Donation of Immense Sums, such as before had been never granted by any preceeding Diet; that they might thereby put a speedy End to the War, and give those that had sent them up to Town, a speedy possession of those imaginary Blessings they had so often and so Solemnly given them Assurances of. For

For this End, *Clubs* were form'd, Cabals instituted, and Meetings assign'd in diverse Places of the Metropolis, and happy was that Young Representative, and at the very Summit of all Worldly satisfaction, that could Drink Himself into an Esteem with *Thomasio*, could be fawn'd upon by *Rodolpho*, or Debauch'd from the Duty which he ow'd to his Country by *Carlo*. *Don Henrico* the *Scrivan* fate all this while behind the Curtain, and dissembled an Aversion to these Office-Haters, at the same time, as none but he and his Accomplices were let into the Secret ; and it was no wonder that these, who were his Agents, carried the Point so, as to prevail with such as had been drawn over into an implicate Belief of their Honour and Integrity, to make Tenders of their Lives and Fortunes to the Empress, and assure Her, they would search into the Rise of former Mismanagements, and enable Her to wear the Imperial Diadem, with a Lustre Superior to all her Predecessors. They promis'd likewise to put her in a way, not only to carry on the War till the Ends were obtain'd, for which it was begun, and which were no less than the Restitution of several Kingdoms, on the Borders of the *Atlantic* Sea to their Lawful Sovereign, but the Surrender of other large Tracts of Land Scituated in that Ocean, which the Sun takes

takes its Rest in, after the Fatigues of its Diurnal Travels, and from whence her Enemies drew those Immense Sums that enabled them to pay their Troops, and after Reiterated Defeats, to bring fresh Armies into the Field.

To give Proofs of their Loyalty and Zeal, and turn their Promises into Performances, after the Diet had by a Publick Decreto, made a general Assessment of Twenty Centenaries in the Hundred upon the Income of every *Villa* in the Empire; the *Mandarines* took upon them to Examine into the State of the War on the *Atlantick* Coasts. Two Legatos, or Generals, had been employ'd upon that Establishment: The First of these, whose Name was *Mordamanno*, had been recall'd Home to make way for the Last to be put in Possession of his Command; he was of an Enterprizing Genius it was true, and had done some Things beyond their Hopes that employ'd Him: He had [thanks to his Enemies Cowardice and Consternation, more than to his own Skill in Military Affairs] with a Handful of Men made himself Master of several strong Towns, and subdued several Provinces: But he was so puff'd up and Elated with his good Fortune; as to be impatient of Advice, tho' never so wholesome, and Averse to all sort of Measures that were not of his own Contrivance;

yet all this while he affected to be Popular, and made it his Endeavour by a Management peculiar to Himself, rather to engage the Hearts of the *Peasants*, than Insinuate himself into the good Graces of the Prince, or his Nobility. Little insignificant Schemes had always more Weight with him, than important Designs, and he thought it more Conducive to his own Honour and the *Britomartian* Glory, to raise the Siege of a poor Village that was Beleaguer'd by the Enemies, than to give them a Diversion by Penetrating into the very Heart of their Country. To give you his Character at full length, he was of all Persuasions by starts, tho' of none for any Continuance. His Principles alter'd with the Climate, and wheresoever he came, he was of the Religion of the Country. He could not be said to be profuse of his own Money, for he squander'd away what belong'd to the Publick; and to say he was not a Man of Credit, is to Injure him to the last Degree, because he employ'd himself as much in Borrowing Money Abroad, as he had accusom'd himself to do at Home. If he was not Defeated, it was owing to his good Fortune, rather than his Conduct, and his very Successes were nothing else, but so many Arguments of his heedless Precipitancy. To finish his Description, he had it in his Power

er to reach the highest Pitch of Glory, but he took wrong Measures in the Pursuit of it, and tho' it could not be said, he was ever Beaten in the Field, 'twas next to a Miracle, that he was not put to Flight, from his Sentiments in the Cabinet. Pride and Ambition that push'd him upon some Attempts, with-held him from others, and he was so stiff in his Opinion when once he had given it, that rather than not abide by it, he would run all Risques and Hazards. This Stiffness and Tenaciousness of Temper, made Him Sacrifice His Mistresses Interest, and the Common Cause, to his own Private Resentments, and because the Lawful Sovereign of these Dominions would not go to his Capital by the Rout he advis'd him to take, he would no ways contribute his Assistance towards his Journey: So that when he might have put an End to the *Atlantick* War, and wholly Expell'd the Enemy from their unjust Usurpations; he made it his Business to continue it, by refusing to join those Troops with his, that had advanc'd from very Remote Parts, to be sharers in the Honour of Reducing Rebels to their due Obedience.

The Second was the Good, Old, Generous, Courageous, and Religious *Galvacio*, a Commander that always Postpon'd his own Interest to the Advantage of his Soldiers; and had nothing more at
Heart,

Heart, than the Service of the Cause he was Gloriously engag'd in. He had left his Native Country *Lilliania*, where he had an ample Patrimony, and a large Estate, on Account of Principle; and rather than not enjoy the free Exercise of that Worship which he was convinc'd, was the only True, he ceas'd willingly to enjoy, what God, and Nature, and the Right of a Subject entituled him to; tho' he never abandon'd his Prince, till his Prince had bid adieu to all Law and Justice, and he saw that he must have abandon'd a Power that was infinitely superior to all Earthly Potentates without such a Removal. The Emperor *Aurantio* was possess'd of too much Merit himself, not to be Charm'd with the Excess of it in this Illustrious Man, and not only made him a Denizon of his Empire, and Invested him with a *Mandarine's* Title but took Him as his Companion in all Military Exploits. To him it was in a great measure owing, that a Revolted Kingdom, which he was afterwards made Governour of, submitted to his Masters Obedience; to him and his Counsels as *Legato* from the same Emperor, that the *Archon* of *Sabaudia* not only kept firm to his Alliances, but acted Offensively for the good of those Princes that were Confederated with him. To him in a Word, that *Britomartia* was let into the Knowledge of the

the *Lusitanian* Measures, and by those means not only rendered capable of opposing Force to Force, but Stratagem to Stratagem.

For some time after *Palatina* came to the Throne he led a retired Life in a little *Villa*, which was all the Estate he had purchas'd for himself during the Course of his great Employments: But as Diamonds give the greatest Lustre in Places of Obscurity, so when Removals at Court had made it necessary for true Merit to succeed; and the Patrons of Virtue had got into their Places that were the Discouragers of it, he was once more called tho' with great Reluctance by those who sat at the Helm of Government, to preside over Military Affairs, and be the Empresses Commander in Chief; in the *Lusitanian* War. His Predecessor *Scomerio*, tho' in all other Things a Consummate and experienced General, was Hot and Ambitious, and altogether disagreeable to the Natives of that Country, who would scarce allow any one to be their Equal, much less their Superior; but this good Man that was as great a Stranger to Pride, as he was to Rashness and Intemperance, no sooner came amongst them but he conciliated their Affections to Him in such a manner, that he not only retrieved their lost Honour, but gave them a Reputation they had been before unknown to. He Disciplin'd the Troops, Repell'd the Enemy,

nemy, and chang'd the Countenance of the War to such a degree, that he not only preserv'd the Kingdom he came to the Rescue of, from *Hostile* Invasions ; But after various Alternatives of Conquests and Defeats, in which, he Gloriously lost an Arm, and receiv'd several other honest Wounds, he made his way maugre all opposition to the Capital of *Atalantis*, and had put the Crown of that Kingdom upon the Lawful Heirs Head ; had either *Mordamanno* done his Duty, as has been before observ'd, or *Austranio* that laid claim to it, given Ear to his repeated Solicitations of *Coming, Seeing, and Conquering*. Hence it was that the Throne of *Atalantis* was further to be disputed and contended for, by the Two Royal Rivals that were in Arms to determine the Succession, and *Galvacio*, after many fruitless Attempts to recover that lost Opportunity, thro' the negligence of those Councillors who attended upon the Young Prince, and the want of Succours from *Britomartia*, was forc'd to be upon the Defensive, after he had again signaliz'd his Courage by the loss of an Eye, in a very fatal Encounter, which had ended in a Glorious Victory on his side, had not *Austranio* drawn off the Flower of his Forces from the Army, Two Days before the Battle, and abandon'd them to an Enemy that was much superior in Number.

Yet

Yet notwithstanding all these Hardships and Difficulties, he struggled with them so as to continue Transacting Affairs with the utmost Prudence and Dispatch, and tho, Vanquish'd, made it appear by his Assiduity and Address, by his Care and Prudence, that the Conqueror's might in their Turns lose the Day upon a less Fortunate Occasion: But neither his great Age, the Wounds he had receiv'd, nor his Integrity of Soul were of any use to Him at this juncture; and it was in vain to plead that his Hoary Locks, his Honourable Scars, and his unsuspected Fidelity, might excuse him from any Publick Censure; The *Mandarines* were prepossess'd in favour of the profligate, *Libidinous* and Itinerant, *Mordamanno*; and the Wrong'd *Galvacio*, had the Misfortune to see himself Accus'd and Traduc'd to the Empress His Mistress, for feign'd Crimes and Misdemeanors, while his Antagonist had the Thanks of the Nobles for those that were real.

As the *Mandarines* had begun their Session with this remarkable Instance, of Prejudice and Injustice; so the *Proatins* resolv'd not to be behind Hand with them, in Actions of the same Complexion, though relating to Affairs of a contrary Nature. They had promis'd the Empress to trace *the source of that great Evil*, the National Debts, and not being able to be as good as

their Words, fell foul upon the Management of the *Thalassiano*, and after voting that there had been notorious Imbezelmments of the Provisions and Scandalous Abuses in that Branch of the Administration, caus'd one of their own Members. to be declar'd incapable of Sitting amongst them, for his being concerned in those pretended Mismanagement, and order'd Him with several others, whose only Fault was for contracting with the Government on the same Foot as their Predecessors, and as it were supporting it, by entrusting it with their Stocks, and giving Credit for what, upon other Occasions, it was wont to pay down ready Money. Tho' these Prosecutions came to nothing, and the Persons order'd to be so serv'd, continued their dealing on upon the old Bottom, yet, as it was intended, they made a great noise in the Cities, Towns and Provinces of the Empire, from whence these Deputies were sent up to the Diet, and they gain'd thereby such Applauses and good Likeing, as rendred all their Proceedings acceptable to the Populace, who look no farther than the Superficies of Things, and are more taken with Shadows and Appearances, than Realities and substantial Truths. This was a great Inducement for these Investigators of Frauds and Abuses, to continue their Enquiries into other Branches of Mismanagements and

Mis-

Misapplications ; and after they had taken Care to make a *Decreto* in Favour of themselves, that their Clubs might be supplied with good Wines, by taking off the Prohibition, that suffer'd them not to be Imported from an Enemies Country; and had seriously set their Heads a Work, to endear themselves with the *Sacristo's* of the *Montalti* Party, by promulging a Law to Build them more Places of Worship, to spread their Arbitrary Tenents in, they drew up a long Remonstrance to Her Imperial Majesty, of vast Sums not Accounted for, by the late Officers of Her *Fiscalio*, illegal Practices by Misapplications of the Publick Money, Scandalous Embezelments, Immense Debts arising from thence, and the entertaining of poor Starv'd Creatures, who Fled to them for Refuge, from an Insulting and Invading Enemy, even when these Objects of Compassion were their Allies and Confederates, and the Opulence and strength of a Nation depends upon the Number and Increase of its Inhabitants. Unwarrantable Proceedings of Arbitrary Denizations, relating to Cities and Bodies Corporate, for which the Outed Ministry were loaded with Reproches, and rendred Odious to the whole Empire *came also in play*; when to the very Day which this History was Written in, (and this was Written after they had closed their Session) they have neither been Summon'd

before the Tribunal to answer for the Crimes they have been so peremptorily Charged with, nor permitted to give Proofs of their Innocence, and disengage themselves in the Presence of the supreme Authority, from all those Scandalous and false Imputations, which, by the means of their not being called to account, they continued being subjected to.

Obloquies, and subtle Invectives and Insinuations were the Weapons that were made use of to destroy the Reputation of such, as would not come into the same Measures with these *Proatins*, since they could not but know, that a fair and equitable Tryal, would *acquit* those who might continue *suspected* without one. They were likewise sensible that the Cause, by being brought into a Court of Judicature, would not only undoubtedly be lost, but endanger the loss of such profitable Places, as the chief Leaders of them were possess'd of, and their Credit with the People, whose Eye-sight might be cleared up, and rendred capable of forming a right Judgment between the *Accusers* Articles, and the Sincerity of the *Patriots* that were *Accused*. Wherefore, tho' they came to stinging Resolutions about Publick Abuses, those whom they Voted Guilty, were not only not Persecuted, but employ'd to Contract on with the Government upon the same Bottom as formerly; and tho' it was given out among the Popu-

lace, that such and such *Madarines* would be called to Account, for prodigious Misapplications and Amassments of national Treasure for their own private Uses, 'twas thought more adviseable by those in Power to content themselves with Stymatizing them, with the Infamous Character of being *Enemies to their Country*; which was much easier than giving themselves the Trouble of proving them so. By these means the Keeper of the *Tulliano*, or the State Prison, (of the same Nature with our *Tower of London*) who had form'd to himself very Profitable Conceptions, and was big with Hopes of Enriching himself, with the Spoils of his new Imaginary Tenants, was wholly disappointed; and the Common People had the Mortification to see their Expectations of several Important Executions, likewise Frustrated and Defeated.

But tho' no Criminal Process was yet form'd against Men of Worth and Integrity, and the *Proatins* had it not amongst other Privileges of the General *Diet* to be *Judges*, as well as *Accusers* of such as were not Members of that Illustrious Assembly, or laid no Claim to an Admittance amongst them; yet their Authority was Uncontroulable in relation to Punishments amongst themselves, and Decisions in Contraverted Elections. In these, it appear'd how the Old *Britomartian* Spirit was decay'd and

lost, and how that Unbias'd Honesty and Honour, which us'd to bear Rule, and preside in all their Determinations was sunk into the meanest and most sordid Compliances. It was not enough that this or that Deputy was Recommended to his Seat in the *Diet*, by all the Virtues which Humanity could be invested with, that he was Wealthy, Just and Generous; that he had the Highest Regard for the Empress, was truly affectionate to the Welfare, and observant of the Constitutions of the Empire; that he was fam'd for Capacity and Prudence, and adorn'd with all Moral and Political Acquirements, unless he came thither to make his Court to the New-Favourites, and to Complement them with the Surrender of his Principles upon all Occasions. To Petition against one that would not give into the New Schemes, was instantly to be admitted into his Place, and there scarce needed any other Evidence to prove a Man duely made choice of, than that he was not so. In some Cases, *Forty* was less than *Fifteen*, and *Five* more in Number, than *Twenty*; so that the Ordinary Rules of *Arithmetick*, were quite out of Date with them, and it was not he that was sent up to serve his Country by the most Votes was allow'd to be regularly Chosen, but he that had the most Votes when he came there. Infomuch, that it was wisely observed by a
 Rejected

Rejected Member; That it signified little or nothing to be made Choice of, in such Places as the Laws Directed; since the Right of Electing seem'd wholly to be Transferr'd elsewhere, and without making Interest in the *Pretorian* Hall, all the Interest that could be made in the Country, would be of no use to any one.

Such Proceedings as these could not fail of putting them into a Capacity of ridding their Hands of all manner of Opposition, so that the *Montalti*, for that was the prevailing Party, could not but obtain what ever they push'd at, by a vast Majority. Therefore, after they had Voted the Empire to be much more in Debt, than it really was by many Millions, tho' it could not be otherwise than in Debt, by Reason of the Deficiencies of the Funds, and several contingent Expences that were charged upon every Branch of the Revenue, and might happen under the most Prudent and Careful Administration; they very wisely Reflected within themselves, that the only way to make their black Assertions stick upon the *Old* Managers, was to do something to advance the Reputation of the *New*. Several Projections were consulted for this End; at last an *Old-Cast* Expedient was laid hold, after all other Ways and Means were releas'd from their Deliberation; and it was resolv'd that those Debts should be *Paid*, and
thas

that without Burthening the Empire with fresh Imposts and Taxes, and even without *Money*. What remain'd for the *Proatins* to do, was to make good their Resolutions by passing a *Decreto* for that Purpose, the Advantages of which were so surprizing, that few or none understood them, tho' Multitudes blindly closed in with the Proposals, and gave up the Principal of what was Legally due to them, for the bare Expectation of being one Day or other Paid the Interest. This, in the Language of those Days was called *paying of Debts*, when in our Dialect, it would have been *running farther in*, and the *Proatins* had the Art and engaging Persuasions, to make the Poor Gull'd Creditors believe, that *Building Castles in the Air*, was making *Good and Legal Settlements*, and *Hunting after Impossibilities*, was to obtain the Fruition of inestimable Advantages.

The Trading Part of the Empire, had been highly disoblig'd by the late Promotions at Court, while the Landed Interest grew daily more and more Prevalent, and since it was owing to the *Loans* of the First, that many considerable Victories and Important Conquests had been obtain'd over the Enemy; it was but Justice to make a shew of bringing them in, as it were sharers with the Last, for their Readiness to Assist and Extricate them out of all Difficulties upon
emergent

emergent Occasions. There was a certain Tract of Land, said to lie *Southward* of the accidental Ocean, whose Rich Veins were reported to Teem and be Impregnated with nothing but gold and Silver. Hither it was that *the Attention of their Creditors was to be drawn.* They were to be told Wonders of the Soil, and the Wealth and the Humanity of the Inhabitants; the Simplicity of their Conduct; and their open and frank way of giving Entertainment to Strangers. How that before all Nations in the Universe, they were Ambitious of Cultivating a strict Friendship with the *Britomartian* State, and how it was nothing more, than to Embark in an Adventure of *Commerce*, and to be put into the certain Possession of a large Extent of Dominion which was no ways to be doubted; and it was but to touch upon these Coasts, and to return frightened with Gems and Pretious Stones, and laden with what would bring Millions into the Adventurers Exchequer.

The Hook that was cover'd with so tempting and inviting a Bait, drew abundance of greedy Mercenaries into the Snare that was laid for them, and those that prepar'd it, had the Satisfaction of seeing whole shoals of the Unthinking Fry, made a Sacrifice to their Vanity and Ambition, and precipitated head-long upon impracticable Designs, that could not but end in
their

their Ruin and Confusion. Instead of Purchasing the Wealth they were allured with, the poor deluded Wretches had nothing but Poverty to contend with, and in Lieu of a Hospitable Reception from their pretended Friends, they were to find nothing but Hostilities from open and declared Enemies ; yet notwithstanding all these unsurmountable Difficulties ; those that were at the Head of the Project were cry'd up, and applauded for the vast Utility and Benefit that would arise from it, and Hirelings were employ'd to distribute and spread about their Praises, that what should have rendered them hateful to all Mankind, made them the Objects of their Esteem, and even the very Ruin of their Country Men and Fellow Subjects, tended to the Inhancement and Increase of their Honour and Reputation.

To ingratiate themselves yet more with People that hug'd their own Destruction, and as it were *Enjoy'd* their very Ruin ; as they had impos'd upon such as dealt in *Traffick*, so they would do by those that Administer'd in *Holy* Matters : And it was one and the same thing while their Hands were in, and they were wholly taken up in Acts of Beneficence, to involve themselves over Head and Ears as to go any length out of their Depth. They were conscious to themselves, that by the means of the *Sacristo's*,
who

who had made Interest for them with the *Bigots* that were under their Care and Direction ; they had been rais'd to the Stations they were then in, and could not but know, that without some Advances in their Behalf, they might alter their Notes, and dispose themselves in Favour of other Candidates at a New Election. They therefore before the rising of the Diet, made a *Decreto* for Building several new Edifices, for the Exercise of the National Religion, which was now said to be in the *Zenith* of its Glory, and its most Flourishing State, and this so far added to their Strength and Interest ; that whereas, by their former Generosity they had Conciliated the good Will and Affections of the looser, and more Robust Part of Mankind, the Rabble, who vouchsafed to Honour 'em with their Approbation ; so now by this last Proof of their Unwearied Prosecution of Works of Manifestation, they had the Hearts of all the Old Men and Women at their Disposal, and got into the good liking of many a Young Damsel, who was oblig'd to Dissemble a great Value for *Spiritual* Gifts, while She had at Heart Donations and Benevolences that were altogether *Carnal*.

These, and the like specious Appearances of Affection to their Country, and Good Will to those that Entrusted them with the Conservation of their Liberties ; (for in
Reality

Reality they had little or no Regard for either) employ'd the Diet for more than Half a Year ; when the Empress *Palatina* dismiss'd them to their respective Places of Abode, till the Season for making the Campaign was over, and She should stand in need of fresh Supplies to carry on the War, which had thitherto been Conducted with great Honour and Advantage to the *Bri-tomartian* State, and its Allies and Confederates. In the mean time the Outed Courtiers continued to have the Mortification of seeing their Interest grow Weaker and Weaker ; while those that were Invested with their Offices, gain'd fresh Access of Strength, by giving Places of Trust, to such Members of the General Diet, who before their being chosen had made Protestations of their being Candidates for that Dignity, solely for the *Good of their Country*, not for any *Views* or *Hopes* of *private Advantage*. These Men, as has been before Observed. Composed a sort of a Club, the very Essence of whose Institution, was an Abhorrence of all State-Preferments, and the Profession of Self-Denial in the most Abstract-en Sense ; But those who Sate at the Helm of Affairs, having got into the right Knowledge of their Pulses, soon had a Remedy at Hand to Cure them of this Distemper, and by gaining over Two or Three of their Principal Leaders by very engaging Rewards

wards, had it in their Power to find, that the Consciences of most of the Rest were as Malleable as theirs, who had before made a Tender of their Principles to the Service of the State.

Among these, the loud and Talkative *Ignifacio* was a Person whom *Palatina's* Ministers had in their Eye. He was Rich and Fearless, of great Resolution, in Detecting Mismanagements of State, and by the forward Zeal he had shewn, in making others guilty of Frauds and Abuses; was thought fitting to be made a Profelyte by some profitable Employment, that by Contracting that Guilt himself, he might slacken his Enquiries of that Nature, and be more remiss in future Investigations. But as this was never to be brought about by any Office that had not a very Considerable Salary annex'd to it, (for he was of too Covetous a Nature to be satisfied with small *Perquisites* Himself, tho' he held the Receipt of any to be unlawful in Others) so it was a Work, of sometime, before he could be Invested with any Thing that bore Proportion to his Vanity and Ambition: What he spoke in the Diet, was always deliver'd by him with great Emotion and Vehemence; this Gain'd Him no small Credit and Interest among some Men, who always give into the Belief of the Justice of a Cause, from the Vigour that was shewn

shewn in adhering to it, and made Him popular amongst the Younger Members, who Measur'd his Capacity by his Rashness, that was mistaken for Courage, and set a Value upon every thing, rather for its Acrimony and Malice, than its Solidity and Sense. Wherefore he was to be Caress'd and sent Home to the Province, he Represented with Assurances that Care should be taken of providing for such Extraordinary Merit, as soon as Occasion should Offer: Because, tho' the Gentlemen at the Head of the New Scheme were fully bent upon making a through Change in all the Offices of Trust, yet it was Prudence in them to do it in such a manner, that should make them least suspected of Injustice, and capable of shewing some Grounds for every Removal; and those whose Preservation and Establishment, wholly lies in Alterations of this Nature, seldom want Pretences (which they call Reasons) for making them.

Don Ricardino likewise a Mandarin of the First Rank, from being a great stickler against the Principles in Vogue, and a declared Enemy to any thing that bore the Resemblance of Unlimited Power, was prevail'd with to bid adieu to his Old Friends, and enter into Engagements with those he formerly had the greatest Aversion to. Not that the Party whose Profelyte he was, could promise to themselves any great Accession

cession of Credit from his Defection, but it gain'd strength by it, which was to be purchas'd at any Rate, since, by how much the nearer to an Equality in Number, the Nobles, who were fasly called the *Faction*, came up with their Antagonists, by so much the more did it behove the *Montalti* to weaken and impair their Interest, by drawing them over to the Opposite side.

Power, Profit and all other tempting Advantages were on their side, whose Banner he was Listed then under; and *Don Ricardino* who Inherited his Fathers Qualities with his Estate and Title broke thro' all Obligations that were never so binding, to encrease that Wealth which was great enough to satisfie any ones Desires, who was without Issue-Male as He was. He forgot how the Emperor *Aurantio*, whom he then Deserted (tho' Dead) in his best Friends, had heap'd unmerited Favours upon Him; how he had taken Him as it were into his Bosom, from the Company of Gamesters and Leud Associates; how he had reconcil'd Him into an Allowance from his Fathers Patrimony; how he had made Him a *Prefecto* of his own Body Guards: In a word, he ceas'd to remember every thing that was past, that he might have Room to charge his Memory with what was to come, and allur'd with the delightful Prospect of *Tinsel'd Grandeur*, left adhering to the Cause of
C plain,

plain, open and disinterested Integrity. The Places of Prince *Mirabel*, like the Branches of a spacious Oak that had long been the Pride and Glory of the whole Forest, were now for his past Services to be Lopp'd off, and parcel'd out amongst those that envied Him the Rewards of his Just Merits, and that of *Archi-Tormentario* carried such Charms with it, that he would have complied with any thing, nay, jump'd over a Stick, for the Attainment of it. At the very Moment of his Ungrateful Revolt, he was made a Tribuno of the best Corps of Cavalry that was in the Empire, and to Establish him in it; he had likewise this additional Post, which was the Chief Dignity that could be acquir'd, confer'd upon Him: So that the Renown'd and Victorious *Mirabel*, that had Triumph'd over all Hostilities Abroad; saw Himself *Trick'd* and Insulted by his Enemies at Home, and he that was most unjustly traduced and vilified for a *Plunderer* and a *Robber* of the Publick, was himself strip'd and deprived of those Honours which were justly his own, from the most approv'd Fidelity, and Consummate Experience, to gratifie the Ambition of private Persons. O Loyalty where was thy Reward, O Valour where was thy Recompence! Did *Mirabel* for this, wear out an advanc'd age in Camps, and for 10 Years together, run the hazard of conversing abroad with

Blood

Blood and Slaughter ? Did *Ricardino* for this, spend more than double the Number in Luxury and Ease, and Fatigue Himself in making no other Conquests than in Engagements with the Ladies ? Such are the Retributions of some People, to the most Eminent and Unexampled Desert, and such their profuse and lavish Benefactions, to the most inconsiderable, and most undeserving of their Favours.

To return to the Proceedings of the *Diet*, which at the accustomed Season of the Year sat again : They were told from the Throne, that during their Recess Proposals had been made by the Enemy, of Entering into a Treaty upon such a Footing, as gave great Grounds to hope, would end in an Honourable and Lasting Peace, and that the only way to make that Peace advantageous, was to raise proper Funds for making another Campaign ; that if the Negotiations which were upon the Point of Commencing, whose particulars would in due time be laid before them, should not have their desired Effect, it might appear they were prepared on their side to force the *Lillianians* to accept of Terms that were Just and reasonable. This, with many Indulgent Assurances of Favour and Affection to Her loving Subjects, and Regard for the Interests of the Potentates in Alliance with Her, was the Substance of

the Empresses Speech from the Throne, and both Orders of that August Assembly, to shew themselves ready to make all possible Returns, answer'd those Assurances with Promises of inviolable Obedience, and the utmost Assistance they could give Her upon so emergent an Occasion. Tho' it was to be Observed, that there was some Difference between them in the Terms of their Respective Harrangues, for the *Mandarines*, who were truly sensible of the Reasons that were given for their Entering into the War, besought Her Imperial Majesty not to put an End to it, till the Kingdom of *Atalantis* with all the Dominions belonging to it, was restored to its Lawful Owner; while the *Proatins*, who were without any Reserve in the Court Interest, entirely left it to the Will and Pleasure of the Crown to Exercise its Prerogative of making Peace in what Terms and Conditions the Prince that wore it should think fit. Not that it was carried amongst one or the other without a Debate upon the Question, to Act this or that way; since the first Resolution was very strenuously oppos'd by several Noble Persons, in particular by the Chief Minister and his Dependents, and the last was spoken against with great Vehemence and Indignation, (tho' not by the like Number of Gentlemen) by such as had the good of the Empire more at Heart, than

than the Establishment and Impunity of the Ministry then in Being.

Some Private Articles of a Negotiation, that was intended to have been kept secret, till Men's Minds were form'd and disposed to receive them, had crept Abroad, and it was in every ones Mouth, upon what Conditions they were to come to an Accommodation with the Common Enemy. In this Man's Face was to be seen a Presumptuous and Haughty Joy for the near Approach of so inestimable a Blessing ; in that Man's, the deepest Concern and Sorrow for so unpremeditated and hasty a Procedure. One took it upon Trust, that the Peace would of necessity be *Safe* and *Honourable*, because such and such Persons were employ'd in Treating of it ; another was of a contrary Opinion, and justly concluded it could not deserve that Appellation, because it infinitely fell short of what he had promised himself by the Continuance of the War. Of this Opinion among the *Proatins*, were all those who were dissatisfied with the late Alterations, and had a true Sense of the Regard which should be shewn to Treaties and Alliances. The Polite, Gallant, and immoveable *Suavilingus*, spoke all that the most Consummate Experience approv'd Eloquence, and Irresistible Truth could furnish an Argument with, for carrying on the War, and

laid before them in the most Pathetick man-
 ner, the Mischiefs that would unavoidably
 follow so degenerate and sordid a Con-
 " descension. Far be it, *said he*, far from
 " Conquerors, Oh! far from *Brito-*
 " *martians*, to think of giving up the Price
 " of so many Victories to a Perfidious and
 " Cruel Enemy. Shall *Atalantis* be aban-
 " don'd to the Possession of an Usurper,
 " or Kingdoms that have cost us so much
 " Blood and Treasure, and are just falling
 " into our Hands be relinquish'd at the
 " Will of a petulant and Capricious Mi-
 " nistry? Our Liberties, our Lives, our
 " Estates, our Altars are endanger'd by
 " these Proceedings, and We cannot an-
 " swer to Posterity the Wrongs We are
 " now doing them. Has the Great *Mira-*
 " *bel* for this Headed your Armies, and
 " thro' Thousands of the Slain, led them
 " annually on to repeated Conquests and
 " Triumphs? Has he toil'd to compleat
 " your Ease and Quiet, and inur'd Himself
 " to Hazards and Fatigues for your Con-
 " tentment? Has he reduced Cities by
 " his Valour and Counsels, to be the Pur-
 " chase of those he took them from, and
 " made Towns open their Gates to Him,
 " to give them up again into their Hands
 " that have no Right to them? Could a
 " Conquer'd People do more than submit
 " themselves to the Mercy of the Con-
 quereors,

querors, and shall we that have the De-
 nomination of the Last, ignominiously sub-
 mit to be in the Condition of the First?
 No, let us keep in Remembrance the
 Glory and Success of our Nation and our
 Arms, and ever set before us the Advan-
 tages we are now Masters of: Let us
 look up to those Names we have Sworn
 by, and Invoke their Celestial Aid and
 Assistance who are Witnesses to an Alli-
 ance, we cannot without Infraction of
 Oaths any ways recede from; let us rather
 think of Ways and Means to compel
 the Enemy, to be thankful for what
 Terms we shall vouchsafe to give 'em,
 than make our selves the Reproach and
 Talk of the whole Universe by receiving
 Conditions from them.

Hamenio, whose Hereditary Zeal for the
 Cause of Liberty made him walk a-breast
 with his renown'd Ancestors, spoke to the
 same purpose: as did also the florid and
 sage *Lecamero*; but Force of Expression
 ceas'd to have its due Weight; and it was
 not in the Power of the most excelling
 Orator to persuade a Majority to give Ear
 to the Voice of Truth and Reason. De-
 monstration that was ever the most infal-
 lible Criterion, was no longer of any Au-
 thority, and Golden Mists had so dazzled
 their Eyes, that they could not see into
 the greatest Certainties. In a word, there

was a Necessity of a Peace to secure the Projectors of the New Scheme; and those that gave their Votes for it out of Necessity, very much out number'd those generous Patriots, who would not suffer the Publick Good to give way to their Private Occasions. These were call'd *Enemies to the Temple*, and Haters of the Worship that was celebrated in it; but these, when a fit Opportunity presented it self, and there was no Danger of exasperating such as could not comply with it, shew'd themselves greater Friends to the Religion in Vogue, than the Pretenders to the strictest Exercise of it: and gave Being to a Decree that secur'd it beyond any Possibility of being endanger'd.

Luteolo was the Person that first mov'd for this Edict; a Man ever till upon this Occasion reckon'd entirely devoted to the *Montanis's* Opinion, and always Bigotted rather than adhering to their Interest. But in process of Time through the means of cooler Thoughts, and a due consideration of Things and Purposes, he came into more moderate and adviseable Measures. Not that he altogether chang'd his Principles, or departed from his former Assertions, as his late Friends and Associates gave out, (for he had from the Beginning vigorously espous'd the *Atalantick* War, and Voted for its continuance till the Kingdom of

of that Name, with all its Dependencies should bewrested from the Hands of him that Usurp'd it) but grown wiser by Conviction, and a certain view of some unjustifiable Designs that were carried on under, the Cloak of Religion and Loyalty, he disclaim'd the Practitioners of such Wicked Arts, and maugre all their Temptations to abide by them, reconciled Himself to that Integrity and Justice, without which, no Man can be truly Great, howsoever, laden and adorn'd with Honours and Titles.

Hereupon, those who could not confute his Reasons for relinquishing their side, set their Hirelings at Work to ridicule and make little of his Person, and because Nature, that had been indulgent to Him in the last Degree, in the Brightness of his Soul, had not been so Profuse to Him in the Elegancies of his Body; but had given Him a Swarthy Countenance, they quarrel'd with his Complexion, and dispers'd Libels relating to his Singularity of Dress: A Method one would think more proper to be taken, in order to render Him Contemptible and Odious to the Ladies than the Men, who form their Approbation or Dislike, not from the Beauties or Deformities of the Body, but from the Graces and Imperfections of the Mind.

So considerable a Profelyte to a Cause that had so much Justice of its side, could
not

not but add Weight to it by other Converts, and several *Mandarines* with whom his Example was of great Authority follow'd his Steps; In so much, that those of the contrary Party judg'd themselves in Danger of being out-number'd, and had violent Suspicions, which were no ways ill ground-ed, that the Face of Affairs might be liable to Alterations in favour of their Enemies. Extraordinary Cases, said they, require extraordinary Remedies, and immediately the Friends to the new Settlement were Conven'd to Debate about necessary Expedients to defeat the Designs of such Members as were for reinstating Things upon the Old Establishment. *Novicius*, and his Creatures knew full well, that immediate Imprisonment was design'd for Him, if those who could not give into his Projects should obtain a Majority, and therefore since there was but a little distance between the Prisons and the Graves of great and Ambitious Men, and he had no ways Merited the Compassion of the Outed Courtiers, he prevail'd with the Empress *Palatina* by new Promotions to strengthen his Interest, which was effectually done by many Voices in the *Diet* that were wholly at his Disposal. Those who pretended to defend this Notable Resolution, said that it was the undoubted Prerogative of the Imperial Dignity, to make as many *Mandarines* as those

those that were Invested with it pleased, and that the Reason of placing that Power in the Crown, was that the Emperours of *Britomartia* might have it in their Power to Reward Secret, as well as Publick Services; that therefore those who were dissatisfied, ought not in the least to repine, had the Empress made twice the Number She did. On the other side it was urg'd, that Her Imperial Majesty had an undoubted Right of Creating as many *Mandarines* as She pleas'd; yet those in Authority under Her, might be called to a very strict and heavy Account for advising Her to Abuse that Right: That Peace and War were the Prerogatives of the Throne, and yet the engaging in a Ruinous War, or making a Treacherous Peace, were Things that no Ministry escaped harmless. To this it was added, that pouring a Number into the Diet to serve a Turn, was making that Diet a Property to the Court, and that tho' these might have been advanced to reward past Services, this might be a Precedent for Bribing others to future ones, which would be of dangerous Consequences. For if in the Reign of such a Prince, this Procedure was exclaim'd against, because it was new, what would the Cry have been had it been done in a Suspicious Reign? Thus it was held for a bold Action, tho' no one disputed the Prudence of it,

it, because it was made use of in so difficult a Conjunction.

The Point being Weather'd, which seem'd to threaten the Favourite Courtier's Exalted Grandeur with immediate Dissolution, and future Storms amply provided against by the new Creations, it was easie to see they would not be wanting to themselves in making a right Use of that Influence they had over the Diet in general: For as *Novicius* had secur'd himself from all Attempts amongst those of his own Class, so Care was taken among the *Proatins*, who needed no extraordinary Measures to be brought into an entire Resignation to his Will and Pleasure, to push them upon fresh Enquiries relating to Abuses and Corruptions. It was not enough that the Valiant and Irreproachable Prince *Mirabel* was divested of his Employments, and dispossest of the Commands which he did Honour to, by his Acceptance, but he must also be render'd Criminal to take off the Odium of their Ingratitude for his past Services; Therefore, when they could fasten no ill Practices upon Him of a higher Nature, tho' they gave out, that his Intentions were to be a General for Life, and like the Renown'd *Cæsar's*, aspiring to the perpetual Dictatorship, they forgot themselves so far, as to descend into Accusations of *Petty Larcenie*, and to charge Him with converting
Trifles

Trifles to his own Use, that were never design'd for any others, but had always been allow'd to his Predecessors as Perquisites of his Office.

Nor could all the Musick that dwelt upon *Suavilinguo's* Harmonious Tongue preserve that Honest, that Uncorrupted Patriot, from the Wrongs of Violence and Injustice. The Truths he spoke were too Pungent to be born with, and a Superiority of Numbers was not esteem'd a sufficient Security for those of the contrary Party, while this Man, this one Man, continued to have a Voice in the Diet. The loss of his Places had no ways impair'd his Courage and Resolution, it had rather added fresh Vigour to it, and he was so far from being depress'd or cast down by his own Injurious Treatment, that it warm'd him into the highest Resentments, for that of his Country, and always made him foremost in opposing whatsoever bore any Tendency to its Detrement. Yet was this Lover of the Land of his Nativity, this Assertor of its Rights and Immunities, this Defender of its Antient Constitution, Traduc'd, Vilified, and Adjudg'd without Cause. He that was abhorrent of an Ungenerous Act, was called in Question for Bribery, and who never was, one Centenarie, the Richer, for Fingering the Publick Money, declared Guilty of Defrauding the Publick, and of Forfeiting

Forfeiting his Place in the Diet. As a further instance of his Enemies Inveteracy, he was likewise committed Prisoner to the *Tulliano*, as if one Punishment was not sufficient for one Offence, had it been real and not imaginary; and he that stood up for the Liberties of the whole World, ought to be Imprison'd for his Noble and Freeborn Sentiments.

But it was not enough to make use of the greatest Severities to their own Country-Men, the *Proatins* would likewise give Instances of their Barbarity to distress'd Foreigners. The Desolations of War and the most extream Poverty, were no Inducements to Charity, and those poor Wretches that by a former Edict had leave to settle in *Britomartia* for Reasons of State, which always allow'd the Power and Wealth of a Nation to consist in the Number of its Inhabitants, were now for the quite contrary Reasons to be no longer Tolerated amongst them, tho' the Subjects of a Prince in Alliance with the Empress *Palatina*, and Men whose Labour and Industrious Wants might have Cultivated the Ground, and improv'd Tracts of Land, that without them would continue to lie fallow.

It was also thought fitting to find occasions of Quarelling with another Potentate their fast Confederate, that they might have the better Grounds to carry on a Treaty

ty without Him; they therefore Voted the *Mandarine Hortentio*, and all others concern'd with Him, Enemies to their Country, for having Be-friended it, in making a League for its greater Security in the Preservation of its Neighbouring States, set themselves Heartily at Work to give Reasons for so doing; which however difficult to be produc'd, appear'd afterwards in a long Complaint, That the *Britomartians* had furnish'd Two Thirds more, that it was Stipulated with their Allies to send into the Field, and had out gone their just Proportions of the War several Millions of Centenaries. These Assertions were made Publick with a long Catalogue of Particulars, to incense the whole Empire against the Persons complain'd of, tho' it miss'd of its intended Effect, and made appear from Answers, that were made to it, and expostulatory Letters upon that Head, that they had not only come up to the Tenour of each respective Agreement, but had in many Instances exerted themselves beyond their Abilities for the good of the Common Cause. As these Remonstrances against their Proceedings, set their Designs in a full Light, so the *Proxims* were not backward to shew their Resentments; and accordingly Represented their Sense of these pretended Impositions, in so lively and Pathetick a manner, that it gave new Life to their drooping Cause, and

and reviv'd that Popular Indignation that had before departed from the Spirits of the Multitude. Infomuch, that those who just before were look'd upon, and Esteem'd Friends for contributing their utmost, towards carrying on the War, in Conjunction with them, were now reckon'd their worst Enemies, for Obstructing a Peace, that would put an End to the Ruins and Depredations that were said to be made by their Accomplices, upon the Publick Treasure.

In the mean time, the Negotiations of Peace that were then upon the Anvil, seem'd to take but a very slow Turn from the Measures of the *Lillianian* Deputies, who instead of Answering the Demands of the Persons employ'd to Treat with them, went on in their Old Road of Prevarication, and gave in such Proposals, as look'd rather to come from a Conqueror that prescrib'd Conditions, than a Prince who had so earnestly and so meanly Suppllicated for Terms of Agreement in all the Courts of his Enemies. The *Mandarines*, like great and good Men, who had at Heart the Prosperity of their Native Country, and the safety of their Allies, receiv'd these Offers as it justly became them, and declared that those Propositions ought to be rejected with the Highest Indignation, and that it plainly appear'd, *Lilliana*, had no other Designs in view than to divide the Allies, &c. To this End, they Petition'd

titution'd Her Imperial Majesty, to reject them
 as Derogatory to Her Honour, and the
 Glory of Her Arms, with Promises of stand-
 ing by Her, with their Lives and Fortunes,
 till such a Peace should be obtain'd, that
 was Safe and Honourable for the Empire,
 and all its Allies. The *Proatins* indeed
 made no Remonstrance against them, nor
 applyed to the Throne on this Account, but
 as they had before left the whole to *Pali-*
tina's Choice, so they now Acquiesc'd in
 her Thoughts concerning it, very cunning-
 ly suggesting that as in most Bargains those
 who Sell, and those who Buy, are generally
 far asunder, till the one Abating, and the
 other Advancing, they agree at last upon
 the Price, so it was very probable, that af-
 ter the *Federato's* had made their Demands,
 the *Lillianians* would be more reasonable in
 their Offers : Yet they did not as yet, go in-
 to such Lengths as to say that a Peace even
 upon those Terms, which the *Montalti* with-
 out Doors gave out, was preferable to a War,
 tho' it afterwards prov'd they Thought so
 from the Conditions, they not only accept-
 ed, but gave Thanks for the Attainment of.

Not that there were altogether wanting
 some Deputies that dared to Espouse the sink-
 ing Cause of Liberty, and speak in Vindi-
 cation of Alliances, which had been form'd
 with the greatest Caution, and ought to
 have been observ'd with the greatest Re-
 gard ;

gard : *Lecamero* took upon Him to say the Propositions of the Enemy were *Insidions*, and made on purpose to put a stop to the Operations of the War, and *Regulo* a Patriot of the Equestrian Order, display'd his Eloquence in making it appear, that the Grounds for a Treaty, ought to be of a Peice, with the Reasons on which the War was founded, and that the Preliminaries before mention'd, were Captious, Insufficient, and Foreign to the Purpose. It was likewise urged by *Hamenio*, that the Conferences ought to be broken up upon the *Lillianian* Kings Refusal, to consent to more equitable Conditions; and that Her Imperial Majesty should be requested by the Diet, to recal Her Legato's from the Place of Treaty; tho' Strength of Argument was oblig'd to give way to strength of Numbers, and not only He, but all who spoke on the same Side, had the Disatisfaction to see the Voice of Justice and Reason Silenced, by the Clamours and Importunities of such as were resolv'd to drop the Prosecution of the War at any Rate, since its longer continuance would lay open those Intrigues, and dark Designs which nothing but a Fatal and Dishonourable Peace could keep undiscover'd from the Publick Eye.

The Managers at *Helm* knew full well that another Campaign would convince the
World,

World of the Facility of reducing the Enemy to what Terms it should be thought fitting to grant them, and they were appriz'd of what Disservice this Knowledge would be to them and their Party, should it be Communicated to others by the Experience of fresh Conquests ; It was therefore agreed amongst themselves to send Instructions to the *Mandarine Promato*, who was put at the Head of their Armies in the Room of the Glorious Prince *Mirabel*, to make what Delays he could in the necessary Preparations, and so to order his Affairs, that the Legato who was his Colleague, and had taken the Field with Resolutions suitable to his High Birth and Courage, should fall short of accomplish his Measures, which were to bring the *Lillianians* to a Decisive Action, or break into the very Heart of their Country, by opening himself a Passage to it, by the Reduction of more Frontier Towns. These Orders to *Promato* who was naturally of a daring and Enterprizing Temper, were extremely Mortifying, and those that had contracted the closest Friendship with Him, did not stick to say, that at the Receipt of them he Repented of the Acceptance of a Command that was so limited, and subjected to such severe Reflections : However, as he was *Passively* Valiant from the Principles that were newly taken up by his Masters that had Pre-

fer'd Him, as well as *Actively* resolute and Couragious, so he repress'd that Ardor that push'd Him upon Hazardous Employments, and did not join the above mention'd *Archon*, till the Enemy had also Encamp'd themselves, and had form'd themselves into a Body of Forces capable of Facing those of the *Federato's* Army.

This Conjunction, tho' retarded by unnecessary Delays, was at last made soon enough to have determined the Fate of the whole World, and to have freed it from all further Apprehensions of Exorbitant Power, and the Effects of unmeasurable Ambition, but when all things were got ready for the Attack, when there wanted nothing but the *Britomartians* consent to fall on and Reap the Harvest of a most Glorious Conquest, *Promato*, after many Excuses and Dilatory Artifices to put off a Declaration of his Opinion, upon his being press'd by the *Archon* to go on to the Charge, unwillingly made known to Him, that his Orders with-held him from such an Attempt, and he had receiv'd positive Commands from Her Imperial Majesty, not to run the Risque of a Battle. Hereupon, he was desired by his Colleague to be Assistant to him in Forming Two Important Sieges, which would enable them to Penetrate to the very Capital of all *Lilliania*, but in this Point likewise he had no Power to Acquiesce,

quiesce, and returned for Answer, That his Orders forbad him to enter upon any Action whatsoever, either Battle or Siege. So that all that the Brave and Undaunted *Archon*, could say to Him upon the Favourable Opportunity they had then put into their Hands, of gaining an undoubted Victory over the Enemy, and of forcing them by that means to accept Laws, not give them to the Conquerors, was in vain; tho' the said *Archon* added the *Faderato's* having pass'd two Rivers, and Advanced into the middle of the *Lillianian* Garrisons, could not then retire without the Hazard of receiving a Blow, and that it would have been better, if *Promato* had let Him into the Knowledge of his Orders, before they approach'd so near to the Enemies Army.

Luteolo had sometime before this, upon Debates amongst the *Mandarines*, given his Opinion, That tho' the Ease and Tranquillity of the Empire was very desirable, by reason of the Pressures which his Fellow-Subjects labour'd under on Account of the Expences of the War; yet rather than not carry it on till it could be brought to a happy Period, he would joyfully content himself with *Two Hundred Centenaries a Year*, which was not the Hundredth Part of his Estate: Young *Hamenio* had also said, upon the little Progress that was

made in giving the Finishing Stroke to former Conquests, that *The Britomartians* were making an unactive and a lazy Campaign, and entering into a trifling Negotiation of Peace: so that they were amus'd by their Ministers at Home, and trick'd by their Enemies abroad; which Expressions had like to have cost him his Liberty, and got him an Appartment in the *Tulliano*: And now, upon this Occasion, charg'd those with direct Treachery, that had manag'd the Negotiations so as prevent Her Imperial Majesty's Troops from acting in Concert with their Allies; to this it was answer'd, by *Henrico*, that " it " was not treacherous to manage Affairs " for the Good and Advantage of the Em- " pire, and that the Share he had in it, " (for he was at the Bottom of the whole " Project) tho' it was never so much cen- " sur'd, gave him the greatest Satisfac- " tion imaginable: so that he should think " it a sufficient Recompence and Comfort " to him all his Life, and he glory'd in " it." What Reason he had for so doing manifested it self only in the Interest he had amongst the *Proatins* (the Majority of whom were too much influenc'd by his Authority) which would have been reckon'd of little Weight, had not he, as it were, been the Fore-horse of the Team that forc'd the rest to draw after him. The Allusion indeed is somewhat coarse,

if apply'd to a Courtier, but still the Comparison will hold good amongst all Lovers of Truth: And it was apparent, that as *Novicius* play'd his Part with all possible Address amongst the *Mandarines*, by telling them, " That in the Peace " which was then set on foot, the Empire " would find great Advantages to her self, " that it had never found any, or had any " been ask'd for it in former Treaties: " But that such things would be obtain'd " for *Britomartia*, that some of the Fœde- " rato's would rather see *Lilliania* possess'd " of them; and that those against the Peace " would have no reason to complain, or be " uneasy: since the Terms were more ad- " vantageous than they could wish;" So did *Henrico* act his: Both of them making Protestations, that there was no separate Treaty, and that the same would be *Foolish, Knavish, and Villanous*. Which Declaration was desir'd by some Members of both Orders, to be observ'd and remember'd.

And well did it deserve such a Notice as was requested to be taken of it; for, after the Diet had fallen foul upon *Delphino* in a very virulent Charge, without making any thing out against him in a Court of Judicature; after they had given great Sums for the carrying on the War in the Kingdom of *Atalantis*, which some of

them knew was by Consent to be abandon'd ; after they had out of Gratitude for the Mercies of the Emperour *Aurantio's* Reign over them, reflected on his Memory, by endeavouring to take away (tho' in vain) the Rewards he had given to his Servants ; In a word, after they had loaded their best Friends with the highest Indignities, and made their Court to their worst Enemies ; after they had provided for the Rich, that is *themselves*, and sent Thousands of poor miserable Families, that were before able to maintain themselves by their honest Labours a begging : after they had discountenanc'd Wit, and laid heavy Imposts upon Learning, after they had at random given it as their Opinion, that more Sums remain'd unaccounted for, than had almost been given ; after they had traduc'd the Living and defam'd the Dead ; after they had broke thro' the most Sacred Engagements, and under the Pretence of Religion, introduc'd a strange Worship into one of the Provinces of the Empire, they resolv'd to confide altogether in the Empress and her Ministers, and leave it to them to act in Affairs of Peace and War, which were the Prerogatives of the Imperial Dignity, as should by them be thought most proper for, and conducive to the Publick Welfare ; and retir'd from
the

the Pretorian-Hall for some Days, till *Palatina* should be at leisure to give them the Particulars of the Progress that had been made in the Treaty, which she had promis'd them from the Throne.

Expectation was upon the Rack, and every Day seem'd a Year till the Time was elaps'd to which the Diet had prefix'd their Meeting, as Hopes and Fears were alternately predominant; and now, this bore the Ascendant over Mens Minds; and now, that took full Possession of them. A Peace was desirable to all Sorts and Conditions, but a Peace that had no Symptoms of Duration, that only skin'd over the Wounds of War, and left the Malady to break out with more Rage and Violence, was what was judg'd of the worst Consequence, and dreaded by such as made Reflections upon Consequences, and look'd into Futurity with the Eye of Reason and Thought. When the Day appointed for the Empress to impart to her People the Steps that had been made in the Negotiations, appear'd, and the Diet was told upon what Conditions a Peace might be had. The Terms were indeed advantageous to *Britomartia*, and many Concessions were made by the Enemy, that to all outward Appearance seem'd highly conducive to it's Wealth and Safety, but as the Interests of the Empire were so twisted and blended
toget-

together with it's Neighbouring States and Confederates, that without giving due Satisfaction to the others, it avail'd little or nothing to her future Security to have a separate Agreement; so those that had a just Sense of Faith and Honour, and could not without Abhorrence think of departing from the most binding Alliances, took upon them to discover the Insincerity of the Enemy, and to make appear, since the Kingdom of *Atalantiæ* was, by virtue of the fore-going Articles, suffer'd to remain in the Hands of the Usurper; that the Ends were no ways attain'd, for which the *Fæderato's* first took Arms, and that they could not with Honour to themselves, or Justice to the Powers whom they were engag'd in Alliance with, lay them down till they were fully and satisfactorily accomplish'd.

Amongst the Persons that spoke on this side were the *Mandarines Halfacio*, and *Æstivo*, Two Nobles of unchangeable Sincerity, whose Abilities were equal to their Inclinations of doing Service to their Country. The First with Strength of Reason, Purity of Diction, and Cogency of Argument, represented: " That tho' it
 " was held confess'd, that several Articles
 " of the Treaty Entituled the Place of their
 " Nativity to many seeming Advantages,
 " yet what was therein stipulated, would
 " be of short Continuance without the mu-
 " tual

“ tual Guaranty of all the *Federato's* for its
 “ Performance, and their reciprocal Se-
 “ curity. That the only means to engage
 “ every Member of the Alliance in such
 “ a Guaranty, was to procure for them
 “ equal Privileges with themselves, because
 “ their Pretensions were full as Just, espe-
 “ cially the *Allemannian's*, which were
 “ infinitely greater : That the last of those
 “ Nations, tho' the War begun chiefly in
 “ Consideration of their violated Rights,
 “ seem'd wholly to be neglected, since
 “ they were allow'd only to keep Possessi-
 “ on of what they had already taken by
 “ Force of Arms, when they had an equi-
 “ table and fair Claim to the whole *Ata-*
 “ *lantick* Monarchy ; and that the *Brito-*
 “ *martian* Faith by such a degenerate and
 “ causless Procedure, would in Time grow
 “ into a Proverb like the *Carthaginian*. The
 last added to his Friends and Companions
 Allegations (for they were inseperable from
 each other, both in their Persons and Sen-
 timents) by saying, “ That the Measures
 “ enter'd into and pursued in *Britomartia*,
 “ for the Year last past, were contrary to
 “ Her Imperial Majesty's Engagements
 “ with Her Allies ; did Sully, and cast
 “ indelible Stains upon the Glories of a
 “ Reign that otherwise would have been
 “ Superlative in Lustre to all that had been
 “ before, or should come after it ; and would
 “ render

“ render the *Britomartian* Name Odious to,
 “ and abhorr’d by every other Nation in
 “ the Universe. The Gallant Prince *Mirabel* spoke to the same Purpose, and was Answer’d by the *Mandarine Temerario*, That some of their Allies would not shew such a Backwardness to an Accommodation as they had lately manifested, but for some Members of that Illustrious Assembly, who maintain’d a Secret Correspondence with them, and endeavour’d to persuade them to carry on the War, out of Consideration that there was a very strong Party in *Britomartia*, that in Process of Time would gain the Ascendant, and Cordially stand by and support them, mangre all Opposers.

Now this *Temerario* had been appointed one of the Legato’s, that brought the Negotiations Abroad to the Posture they were then in, and had by the Haughtiness of his Address, made Himself so unacceptable to the Persons, who, he said, were backward to come into the Treaty, that it was little wonder’d at, by those that had a true Insight into his Temper and Character, why he should speak without Book, and charge those with Clandestine Practices, whom he could not prove to be Guilty of them. However, *Cupernico* condescended to take notice of his Assertions; and because the *Mandarine Temerario*, had not express’d Himself according to the Idiom of the

the *Baitomartian* Tongue, took Occasion from thence to say ; “ That, that Noble
 “ Person, had been so long Abroad in Foreign
 “ Courts, that he had almost forgot, not only the Language, but the
 “ Constitution of his own Country. That
 “ according to the Laws of *Britomartia*,
 “ it could never be Suggested as a Crime,
 “ in the meanest Subject, much less in any
 “ Member of that August Diet, to hold
 “ *Correspondence with their Allies* : Such
 “ Allies especially whose Interest the Head
 “ of the Empire had declared to be IN-
 “ SEPERABLE from HER OWN
 “ in Her Declaration from the Throne :
 “ Whereas, it would be a hard matter to
 “ justifie, and reconcile with their Laws,
 “ or the Rules of Honour and Justice,
 “ the Conduct of some Persons in Treating
 “ *Clandestinely* with the Common Enemy,
 “ without the Participation of all the
 “ *Federato's*.

The next Article that fell under the *Mandarines* Cognizance, was that of the Advantages offer'd by the *Lillianians* relating to Trade, particularly in settling that Branch of it, that more peculiarly belong'd to the Navigatorio, in the *Atalantick* and *Occidental* Sea. On this Occasion, the Celebrated *Conde de Delphino*, than whom none was better Vers'd in the *Arcana's* of State affirm'd, That he did not pretend

pretend to any great Knowledge in Matters of Traffick, but that during the time he had the Honour of being in the Administration of Affairs, he had observ'd, and it was in his Power easily to make it out from the *Contractorio* Books, that the single Commerce of *Porto Lusitano* brought to *Britomartia* in Times of War, doubly the Increase of Wealth of the Trade to the Kingdom of *Atalantis* in Times of Peace: So that whatsoever might be insinuated to cast a Mist before the Eyes of the People, it was to be presum'd, that the Traffick to *Atalantis* would still give lesser Productions, and shorten in its Emoluments for the future, because the *Lillianians* had made themselves Absolute and Uncontroulable Masters of that large Extent of Dominions.

But after a long Debate, in which neither the above-mention'd Guarantee, nor the Considerations of a more advantageous Traffick, which it was then in their Power to have establish'd, had any manner of Prevalence, (tho' both of them had for their Advocates the Sage *Luteolo*, and the Persuasive *Cupernico*) it was resolv'd to thank Her Imperial Majesty for communicating to the Diet the Conditions on which a Peace might be had, and to leave it to Her, and Her Ministry's unerring Judgment and Discretion, so to go on with those

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Transactions, and in such a manner to pursue what they had so happily begun, as they in their great Wisdom should think fit.

Yet, tho', upon putting it to the Vote whether they should acquiesce under the Empresses wise Determinations for the Advantage of the People, it was carry'd in the Affirmative by a very great Majority; there were not wanting several Men of Distinction amongst the *Mandarines*, who to hand themselves down with unblemish'd, and untainted Characters to Posterity, enter'd their Dissatisfaction against such Proceedings, and their Reasons for disagreeing with those that had the right Side of the Question, tho' the wrong Side of the Argument. History gives us their Remonstrance at large, which was as justifiable in the Composure of it, as it was allowable from immemorial Precedents of the same Nature, in its being inserted in the Minutes of the Diet; but since this present Undertaking, is to give a succinct and short Account of Transactions; it is purposely omitted and left out for the sake of Brevity; tho' the Reader is to be told, That what Justice soever might appear on its Side, and from whatsoever Exemplars in the Journals of the Diet it might be taken, it gave such Offence, and exasperated those that had no Relish for it so very much,

much, that it was order'd to be erased out of their Journals, and thereby discountenanc'd from getting into the Approbation of those that sat up for Judges of Political Transactions without Doors.

However the Substance of it was made publick, in order to let the Populace into the Reasons upon which they grounded their Dissent, which was so ill taken by the Favourite Party, that they apply'd to the Throne to issue out a Reward for the Discovery of the Authors of that Contrivance, after they had in vain made Enquiries relating to that Subject among themselves. This was readily assented to, and an Edict was given out, according to the Tenour of their Petition; tho' it was whisper'd, not without Reason, that they might more readily have attain'd to the Knowledg of what they were in quest of, had they search'd more narrowly amongst themselves, or been appriz'd of any particular Instance where any one of their own Members had been animadverted upon for such an allowable and harmless a Publication.

'Twas observable also, that even amongst the *Proatins*, the generality of them were at first startled and strangely surpriz'd, at the Propositions which were likewise communicated to them. They had promis'd themselves Mountains from the Assurances,
that

that had been given them by the Ministers of their own Order, and now were under a Necessity of holding themselves contented with Mole-Hills, because they could not go back from their Engagements, or depart from that implicate Assent they were oblig'd to give every Scheme that was handed down to them from the Court. However some of them made no Scruple of declaring, That it was easy to discern what Reasons induc'd those who sat at Helm, to keep the Result of the Negotiations between *Britomartia* and the *Lillianians* so long while a Secret; since, if such a Plan, as was then laid before them, had been communicated to the Diet, before a Majority had been secur'd, and the Minds of the Deputies prepar'd by a long Train of artful Insinuations to receive it; it would, in all probability, have been unanimously exploded. But by the admirable Dexterity of the Prime Ministers, Things were brought to such a Pass, that tho' amongst the *Proatins* One or Two Members open'd their Mouths, to propose taking the important Matters that had been imparted to them into their immediate Considerations they were presently stopp'd by a General Cry, for paying their Acknowledgments to the Empress *Palatina*, and expressing their Satisfaction in what Her Majesty had already

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ready done, and their *entire Confidence*, in Her Majesty's continuing to pursue the true Interest of her Imperial Territories.

Yet notwithstanding, the vast disproportion of Numbers between such as went into the Measures which were then taken, and such as judg'd them disadvantageous and unreasonable, *Hamenio* was too good a Patriot, not to make a stand once more against the Torrent, that was breaking in upon the Liberties of Mankind, and to dehort them from laying hold of too rash Expedients, under the Pretence of Ways and Means for the Common Benefit. " I
 " am but too sensible, *said he*, that what
 " I am now going to speak, will have as
 " little Influence upon this Assembly, as
 " what has been already spoken by me and
 " other Well-wishers to the Constitutions
 " of the Empire; Yet tho' Men that are Resolv'd to be deaf, will give not Ear to
 " the Voice of Truth and Reason, be they
 " never so open and apparent: Tho' I expect Reproaches and a Calumnious
 " Treatment, for giving an Opinion which
 " my Compassion for our selves and others,
 " my concern for the Liberties of the whole
 " Universe, and the Love I bear to our most
 " Excellent Constitution dictate to me, I
 " can't even now but make it my endeavour
 " to lay before you the Evil Consequences
 " of

“ of what you are now going to do, by ap-
 “ plauding such Conditions of Agreement
 “ with the Common Enemy, as must in-
 “ fallibly terminate and Conclude (after the
 “ Cement of a most Solid Alliance is there-
 “ by disjoin’d and unloos’d,) in the Ruin of
 “ every particular State and Principality
 “ that forms it. I do not this, *Gentlemen*,
 “ in hopes of your Conviction, for I know
 “ what Odds the most wholesome and best
 “ Advice has at this time of Day against
 “ it; but I do this to Acquit my self be-
 “ fore Angels and Men of the Guilt, I must
 “ otherwise be sharer in. ’Tis too late,
 “ indeed, to recal the Vote that has been
 “ made and agreed unto, ’Tis too late to
 “ tell you, that the Gifts the Enemy has
 “ made, are like those from the *Greeks* to
 “ the *Trojans* in Order to Destroy us:
 “ ’Tis too late to affirm that the Places
 “ which are to be Surrendred into your
 “ Hands by this Treaty, will but serve as
 “ so many Garrisons to keep up a stand-
 “ ing Army in Times of Peace, since you
 “ have not only accepted of them, but have
 “ been Lavish of your Thanks, for having
 “ it in your Power to give them your Ac-
 “ ceptance: But it is not too late, (tho’ e-
 “ ven this Opportunity if now lost may be
 “ past Retreiving) so to provide for the
 “ safety of the Empire, that the Succession

“ to the Imperial Diadem, as far as in Us
 “ lies may be secured, by more ample De-
 “ clarations in its Favour, and that all the
 “ Potentates engag’d in the Present War
 “ against *Lilliania*, may be desired to vin-
 “ dicate and assert the several *Decreto’s*
 “ that have been made for that Purpose,
 “ and jointly take Arms against all such as
 “ shall endeavour to make void that Esta-
 “ blishment : Since the best of Princes are
 “ subject to the Laws of Mortality, and
 “ even *Palatina* Herself must one Day,
 “ (which I pray may be far, very far di-
 “ distant) exchange the Glories of this
 “ Earthly Life, to be crown’d with the
 “ Blessings of that which is Heavenly.

Endeavours were us’d to have this puz-
 zling Motion dropp’d, but *Hamenio* and
 some of his Friends insisting to have it pro-
 pos’d to the Diet ; it was carry’d in the
 Negative almost unanimously, and gave
 Birth to a Resolution of a quite different
 Nature ; which imported, That the Diet
 had such an entire Relyance upon the As-
 surances the Empress *Palatina* had given
 them, relating to the Security of the Suc-
 cession to the Throne after Her Decease,
 that they could never doubt of Her Impe-
 rial Majesty’s taking proper Measures for it ;
 and that they would beseech Her Majesty to dis-

discountenance all those who should endeavour to raise Jealousies between Her and Her Subjects, especially by misrepresenting Her Intentions. This Request had an Answer to the Satisfaction of those that made it, and many zealous Oppugners of Invasions upon the Rights and Immunities that had been seemingly secur'd to them by inviolable Decreto's, had the Mortification to be convinc'd, that if a Motion of so great Importance and Necessity could not meet with a favourable Reception, they could have but little Hopes of accomplishing Desires of less Weight and Moment.

What remain'd for the *Diet* to do, now the Time generally allotted for their Sitting was almost Elaps'd, was to Arm themselves against the Invectives they had Grounds to expect from an Enrag'd Populace, whom they at their several Elections had gain'd over into a Belief of being releas'd from all further Imposts and Subsidies, after the Finishing of that one Session. They were Conscious to themselves how little they had kept their Word with them, and apprehensive, lest the *Literato's*, whom they had mightily Exasperated, by laying a Duty upon the Barks of Trees, on which all their useful Panegyricks and Sa-

tyrs were pen'd down, and their Historical Remarks and Observations transmitted to Posterity, should make them Returns suitable to their Merits, and set forth the great Discouragement they had given, not only to the Products of the Brain, but the Manufactures of the Soil to which they ow'd their Nativity. It had always been among the other Privileges of the *Britomartian* Empire, that the Subject, who thro' the means of his Condition, or his want of Interest amongst the Great Men, who surrounded the Throne, and intercepted the Beams of Majesty, from shining more immediately upon those that stood in need of the Rays of its Protection, could not apply in Person for Redress of Grievances, should Communicate them to the Publick in Writing, that so, by those Means, the Sovereign, among such as were curious in Enquiries of that Nature, might be let into the Knowledge of them. This Method had often been of great Help to the Oppressed, and made the Empress appriz'd of several Male-Practices, which She had never known but by the Means of it; and this had been so useful in propagating the New Scheme, that the Old one had still continu'd in Force but for the Exercise of it. Therefore, to express their Gratitude to an Art to which their Elevation to the Dignities they

they were possess'd of, it was judg'd requisite, least the Arrillery that play'd so successful on their Side should be turn'd against them, wholly to dismount it and nail it up.

What gave Occasion to this unprecedented Resolution, was, the Publication of a certain Remonstrance, that was voted a Libel for being unanswerable, and said to be an Insult against the Supreme Authority, only for imploring, with all Humility, its Aid and Assistance: and what push'd them on to form that Resolution into a Decreto was something of the same Nature done by one of the Prime Sacrifices, who could not see the most approv'd Fidelity set at nought, the most exalted Worth scandaliz'd and depress'd, the most inimitable Fortitude cowardiz'd and calumniated, without an Exclamation in Behalf of those Virtues, without some Tokens of Dissatisfaction for the Injury that was done to such Heroick and Shining Qualities.

Even those Sacred Pages had not strength and Energy enough to defend them from the rude and Importunate Assaults of Cla-

morours Tongues. The Doctrines that were in them taught ; and the Establish'd Truth that were in them bravely Vindicated, were forc'd to give way to false Suggestions, and submit to the partial Decision of our unjust Censure ; as that which was Holy, that which was Loyal, that which had no Views in it but Reproof and Instructions, underwent the Reproach of being otherwise intended ; and the Meek, the Learned, the Courageous *Dafavia*, for daring to lament the Vices of a corrupt and degenerate Age, was accus'd and declar'd guilty of endeavouring to create Discord and Sedition in the Heart of the Empire.

So Bold a Stroke as this, against a Person of his Title and Character, could not but be the Subject of various Speculations, and Men who thought closely, and made enquiry into the Consequences of violent and precipitate Measures were taught by Experience, that the Goodness of a Cause was shrewdly to be suspected, when it was carried on and Supported by Acts of Intemperance and Rigour. Therefore instead of gaining Profelytes over to their Opinion, they lost many of their former Adherents, who being engag'd on their side by specious Pretences, deserted them

them when it appear'd, that those Pretences were nothing else but mere Delusions; and the Unadvised *Montalti* had the Mortification to see, that tho' they increas'd in Number within Doors, thro' the means of an Invisible Power, which Places of Profit will always be possess'd of, they decreas'd daily without.

They knew and were fully satisfied, that if their Interest fell off and abated in such a manner while they were Sitting, the Defection would be much greater when the Awe and Authority of their Presence should be remov'd, and they dispatch'd Home to look after their Domestick Affairs in their several Habitations; They knew that the Tongues and Pens of Men would be Exercis'd freely, with Respect to the Issue of their Consultations and Debates, after their Rising, and since it had been Customary at the Close of every *Diet*, for the People to be entertain'd with the True, and false Steps that had been made in it, either to Excite their Resentment or provoke their Applause, it was but too visible, the same Measures would be taken in Relation to their Proceedings.

Wherefore

Wherefore they took it instantly into their Consideration, how to stifle all Attempts of that kind; and because they were conscious to themselves, that the License which had Time out of Mind been given to the Practice above mention'd, might be employ'd to their Disadvantage, they enter'd upon Vigorous Efforts wholly to Suppress it. But as this Liberty of Publishing Mens Thoughts of the Conduct of their Superiors, had been equally Abus'd on the one side and the other, and both Distinctions of Parties had made use of it as a Vehicle, in which they convey'd their Complaints, in order to obtain Remedies for the Disasters that griev'd them; so, that the Intended Decree might bear some Colour of Justice, and wear the Face of Impartiality, it was gravely declared, that no *Anonymous* Writer should dare to Issue forth the Labours of his Brain under the severest Penalty. Not, but it was wisely foreseen by the Opposite Party, that this Pretended Act of Impartiality, was design'd altogether in favour of the *Montalti* Persuasion, since they had in such a manner engross'd the Administration of Affairs to themselves, that it was not only in their Power to Animadvert upon, and Punish whomsoever they should be pleas'd to Call Offenders,

but

but to pass by, release, and acquit such as really fell under the Cognizance of the Law, and justly Merited the Names of Common Defamers.

Several Flagrant instances of this Method of Procedure were seen, during their very Consultations upon this Head; and even the Resolutions they had taken to provide against the growing Evil of Detraction were usher'd into the World with Tokens of its Approbation, and Increase. This great and good Man that liv'd up to the Rules of Honour and Honesty, and never swerv'd from the Dictates of an Untainted Conscience, was Bawled about the Streets, for one that was void of Shame and Integrity, and every Embellishment that gave a Lustre to his Character. That Valiant and Unconquer'd General, which never turn'd his Back upon a Foe, nor ever look'd an Enemy in the Face, whom he did not put to Flight; that never did one single Act in Disobedience to his Sovereign, or committed any Thing in Violation of his Love to his Country, by way of Return to his past Services was called a Robber, a Dastard, an Ingate, and said to be almost Emasculated, to please such as were Envious of his great Abilities. In a Word, it avail'd nothing in Behalf of the most Consummate

mate Faith and Experience, that they were Superlative to all Imitation; and the most Transcendent Merit had nothing to comfort itself with, under its Ignominious Treatment, but the Want of it, in such as decry'd and reviled it; while those that were actually at Work, in providing against Infamy and Scandal, Laugh'd behind the Curtain at the Progress of it; nay, what is more, if the Annals of Time speak true, Encourag'd, and Rewarded such as gave vent to it.

But with whatsoever Application and Warmth they study'd to prevent the Insults they were threaten'd with, and to divert the Storm that was coming upon them with their approaching Dismission, it unhappily fell out that their Uneasiness at the Remonstrances of a Neighbouring State, summon'd all their Resentments that way, and hurry'd them into such Extremities of Anger, that to take their full Revenge on the Last, they dropp'd the Pursuit of the First; and, (to the great Grief of the Syndyke *Eborocano*, who amidst all his Want of Insight into Things and Men, very luckily knew his own Blindside; and that he was as liable, as any Man breathing,

to the Attacks of that Derision and Satyr which he had labour'd with all his Might to silence) left that Affair in the same Condition they found it.

So that, after both Orders of this General Diet had signaliz'd themselves in making Provision to supply the Expence of a War, while they had nothing more in View than an approaching Peace; after the One had consented to all the Funds which the Other propos'd, and the *Mandarines* were at last brought to comply, and go Hand in Hand, with the *Proatins*: After they had received substantial Proofs of Gratitude from those who sat at Helm, in Places of Honour and Profit, and gracious Assurances of the most obliging Remembrances from the Empress, they had leave to return from the Protorian-Hall, with *PALATINA's* Thanks, to their respective Places of Abode, there to go without the Thanks of their Country; there to contemplate upon the Benefits they had promis'd to their several Electors, and to furnish themselves with Excuses for the Breach of their former Promises, that they might be thereby enabled to find out fresh *Ways and Means* in order to break thro' *New Assurances*.

F

Thus

Thus ended the Debates of an Assembly, whose Memory was ascertain'd of being transmitted, and convey'd to the latest Ages, thro' the Means of the most remarkable Occurrences: Thus was a Respite given, till the Winter following, to the Exercise of that Authority, which, as it ow'd its Institution to the Breath of the Sovereign, and the People, should alone have consulted their respective Honour and Advantage; and thus did they, for a while, cease to load the *Britomartians* with fresh Imposts, who were chosen on purpose to release them from the heavy Burthen of their Debts, and other National Grievances.

In the mean Time, no Concessions were wanting at Court to forward the Treaty that was set on Foot with *Lillianian*; and the *Britomartian* Legato's, *Prelato* and *Temerario* had it in Command from *Novicius*, and the rest of the Ministry in his Interest, to give into the Measures that were prescrib'd them for bringing it to a speedy Conclusion. But as the Result of too great a Precipitancy might have been the Loss of their Lives, so, notwithstanding the *Lillianian* Monarch had given Orders to his Ministers to be as expeditious as possible, in giving the finishing Stroke to the

the Negotiations: The Course of them spun out abundance of Time, by way of Amusement, that the *Federato's* might see how much the Empress had at Heart the Good and Advantage of Her Friends, at the same Time that it was notoriously known, that the Terms of Peace had been long before agreed to by the Two Potentates; and nothing was wanting to make the Common Enemies fall under the same Denomination with themselves, but the Ratification of it in Form, by their Respective Signs Manual.

When, the Time drew near at Hand for Convening the Diet, as it was usual in the Winter-Quarter, which made *Palatina's* Legato's bestir themselves with wonderful Application, to bring the rest of the *Federato's* into their Measures before the Session. But the *Allemannians* were inflexible, and claim'd the Performance of former Stipulations; and the *Belgianians*, (who were strict Observers of their Word) were backward in giving Ear to Infidious Arguments that discover'd nothing but Intentions to serve the Interest of the Enemy, by the Sacrifice of their Friends, and as urgent with them, on the other Hand, for the Continuance of the War; So that Edict after Edict was

set forth to defer their Meeting from this Day to that, till the Discontents of the Deputies, who were at great Expences, for no Purpose, in the Capital City, made it necessary, for the Safety of *Novicius* and his Adherents, that their Two Agents Abroad should set a Day for the rest of the Fæderato's to come into their Dispositions, without which they were to put the last Hand to the Treaty exclusive of them.

The *Belgianians* were a Nation too Cautious and Knowing, not to foresee that, upon the Defection of *Britomartia* which, in Conjunction with them, had born the greatest Burthen of the War, they must have been expos'd to some Hazards, had they not follow'd Her Example; they therefore, after some Tokens of Reluctance, at the Time appointed sign'd the Peace, as did the other States that had join'd Forces to humble the Pride of *Lilliana*, except the *Allemannians* and the Princes their Dependents, who resolv'd to continue in Arms, and run the Risque of losing all, rather than to submit to the hard Conditions that were offer'd them.

Hereupon the Diet sat, and were told from the Throne, ' *Palatina* was glad to
' meet

' meet them, now She had happily con-
 ' cluded a Peace that was highly to the
 ' Advantage of her own Subjects, and con-
 ' tributed very much to the Security of
 ' Her Fæderato's. That the Obstructions
 ' She had met with in the Treaty had not
 ' in the least damp't Her Zeal in carrying
 ' it on; and, that She left it to them to
 ' consider what was further necessary to
 ' render the Blessings, that must flow from
 ' it, more durable and certain: That She
 ' had no other Aim in making it, than
 ' the Good and Wellfare of all Her Sub-
 ' jects; to the Consideration of whose De-
 ' puties it was left, what Forces were
 ' sufficient to be kept Up in time of Peace,
 ' and what Decreto's were still requisite
 ' for the Establishment of Tranquillity at
 ' Home, now the Rage of War was ap-
 ' peas'd Abroad: That She conjur'd them
 ' all to do what in them lay to avoid all
 ' Occasions of Contention amongst them-
 ' selves, and hoped both *Mandarines* and
 ' *Proatians* would jointly Study what
 ' should be most Conducive to the Pub-
 ' lick Safety. Then She gave Her Opi-
 ' nion what Remedies were proper for
 ' such and such Grievances, desir'd them
 ' to use all possible Dispatch in the Mat-
 ' ters that were laid before them; and so
 ' left them to their wonted Consultations.

The foregoing Speech was deliver'd with abundance of Grace and Sweetness, and Her Imperial Majesty was no sooner return'd to Her Palace, but the *Prætorian* Hall eccho'd with loud Clamours, and Calls for solemn Testimonies of their Thanks for it, as had been customary from the first Establishment of a Diet. When the Sage *Luteolo* rose up amongst the *Mandarines*, and address'd himself to them after this manner: ' Far be it from
 ' Me, very far, most Illustrious and
 ' Noble Patriots, to be against any Opportunities that shall offer themselves
 ' for shewing our Gratitude to our Sovereign, and our Acknowledgments of the
 ' many Instances of Her Auspicious Reign.
 ' Far be it, that I should single my self out
 ' in Opposition to those Thanks which are
 ' so justly Her due, for Her great Goodness and Condescension. But how ready so ever I am, and always shall be, to
 ' join with the most forward in applauding any Act of Beneficence, or Indulgence from the Throne, so I shall ever
 ' be amongst the most backward in giving my Assent to any Motion that is
 ' for accumulating Praises upon what is
 ' not matter of Fact, and making no distinction between Realities and false Appearances. Did we not, most Excellent
 ' *Mandarines*;

' *Mandarines*, enter into this War on
 ' purpose to restore the Kingdom of *Ata-*
 ' *lantis* to a Prince, whom it was then
 ' said to be wrested from by Fraud and
 ' Usurpation? Did we not assign the Re-
 ' covery of the Rights and Liberties of
 ' Injur'd and Oppress'd Potentates for the
 ' Cause of it? Did we not promise on the
 ' Faith of the Empire, and make solemn
 ' Protestations at the Altars of our Gods,
 ' that we would never come to Terms of
 ' Agreement with our declar'd Enemy,
 ' till we had obtain'd what we took Arms
 ' for, and accomplish'd those Glorious
 ' Ends for which the War was call'd *Just*
 ' *and Necessary*? Did we not bind our
 ' selves to our Fæderato's by the strictest
 ' Ties, never to Sheath our Swords but
 ' in Conjunction with them, and by no
 ' means to quit those Engagements, till
 ' every one of them had receiv'd Satis-
 ' faction as to their several Pretentions?
 ' Yet, in whose Hands is the Kingdom of
 ' *Atalantis* left? Is not a Native of *Lilli-*
 ' *ana* by this Peace suffer'd to keep pos-
 ' sess'd of the Throne? How are the
 ' Rights of Injur'd Princes recover'd and
 ' secur'd, when the Grand Oppressor is
 ' at Liberty to go on with his accustom'd
 ' Acts of Violence, and use those that
 ' were Born to Empire, at Discretion?

' After what manner can we be said to
 ' have fulfill'd our Promise, or come up to
 ' the Tenour of our Protestations, when
 ' Terms of Agreement are made, which
 ' we pledg'd our Faith not to enter into,
 ' exclusive almost of every Inducement
 ' that at first led us into the Field of Bat-
 ' tle? Or, by what Names are those to
 ' be call'd, if not to be reckon'd amongst
 ' the Fædifrago's, who, instead of abiding
 ' by their Assurances to the *Allemanni*ans,
 ' have departed from them in such a Me-
 ' thod, as to fix Eternal Obloquie and
 ' Reproach on the *Britomarian* Nations;
 ' since not one of their Pretensions are in
 ' the least satisfy'd, and they are, after so
 ' many Victories and Conquests on their
 ' Side, in much worse Plight than those
 ' they have so often Defeated? May that
 ' Day be blotted out of the Records de-
 ' sign'd for Posterity, and be erased from
 ' our Calendar, wherein our Children's
 ' Children must otherwise be told, we
 ' have Befriended our Enemies, barba-
 ' rously Treated our Friends, and Inhu-
 ' manly shaken off all Sense of Honour,
 ' or Compassion, by deserting those whom
 ' we had taken into our Protection, and
 ' leaving those a Prey to Insatiate Ambi-
 ' tion, in Conjunction with whom we had
 ' reap'd so many Lawrels, and for whose
 ' sake

' fake we were oblig'd to do so many good
 ' Offices? Not that I would here be sup-
 ' pos'd to arraign the Wisdom, or Justice,
 ' of so Good, so Gracious, and so Indul-
 ' gent a Princess, as the Empress *Palatina*;
 ' and that any one is more tender of the
 ' Prerogative of the Imperial Diadem than
 ' my self; but if we must attend the Em-
 ' press with our Thanks, as I would be
 ' in the Number of those that are to pay
 ' their Respects to Her for Her truly
 ' Royal Assurances from the Throne, so I
 ' cannot but give it as my Opinion, that
 ' the Instrument which is to contain those
 ' Thanks be so Worded, that we may
 ' not testify our Gratitude for a *General*
 ' *Peace*, when so considerable a Body of
 ' the Fæderato's as the *Allemannians* and
 ' their Dependents are left out of it.

The Judicious *ÆSTIVO* spoke to the
 same Purpose, and his faithful *Achates*
HALFACIO said, he could by no means
 admit of the Word *General*, as being im-
 proper to be made use of: But *Novicius*,
 who had a Salve for every Sore, said,
That, indeed, the Peace could not be said
to be Universal, but that it might justly
be call'd General, since the major Part of
the Fæderato's had given their Assent to
it. This Argument was sustain'd by
Henrico,

Henrico, who added to it, *That since the Britomartians and Belgianians, who sign'd it, had been at more Expence, in carrying on the War, than all the rest of the Federato's, and several other Kingdoms and States had come into the Peace, it might well fall under that Apellation.* However they would not insist upon Trifles, and so the Instrument aforesaid was drawn up without any such Epithet.

The Proatins likewise run into the same Measures of giving their Attendance on the Empress with a Congratulatory Harrangue, and they were so implicitly Obedient to such as had the Direction of Affairs, that no one amongst that numerous Assembly offer'd a Word against it; but the Young General *IBERIANO*, who objected against some Particulars in it, with great Judgment and Vivacity of Spirit, and distinguish'd himself by his Descreet Behaviour in the Diet, as much as he had by his Valour in the Field: But the Serpents were deaf to the Voice of the Charmer; and it being contrary to their Instructions from their Superiors, to give Ear to him; they swallow'd the Measures that had been prescrib'd to them; and pay'd their Congratulations with abundance of Formality and Ceremony. The

The next Thing they had to do, tho' their Electors had been made to believe, when they Chose them, that there shou'd be no more Imposts after the Conclusion of the Peace, was to raise Four Millions of Centenaries for Occasions of State, which they did by several sort of Taxations, in which they had an Eye to their own Interest ; by lessening that upon each Villa by one half. After which, under pretence of Redressing Grievances, seven select Deputies, who had been appointed to Inspect the Disbursements of the Moneys before granted, and were a great Grievance themselves, by the means of their respective Sallaries, were Order'd to lay before them their several Observations. Amongst these a Little Crooked Deputy, who had obtain'd that Employment by loose Querks of Wit, and a tolerable Talent at Railing, which was Interpreted Satyr, was pick'd out to make the Report, which was very Long and very Trifling, containing nothing but Remarks not worthy of Notice, and Reflections on Things and Occurrences of no other use to the Publick, than to let them into the Knowledge of their Willingness to find Fault, and their Inability to do it. For instead of real Abuses they produced imaginary, in Relation to the Sums allotted for the
 Payment

Payment of all the Subsistence of the Legions, and the Mariners that man'd the *Navigatorio* : Nor were their Observations on the Management of the *Scaccario*, and other Offices, of more Importance; since they only made appear they were not wanting in Malice, how deficient soever they were in Means, to bring about their Intention by it: Because the *Montalti*, even amongst the *Proatins*, who would have laid hold on the least Occasion of bringing to Tryal any one of the other Party, made little Account of their Accusations, and scarce gave it a Reading, which was only done for the sake of blackening the Character of the most Knowing, and approv'd Statesman, the *Mandarine Guartonio*, and traducing the Reputation of a *Proatin* that was one of their own Number, and was no otherwise Blameable, than for being of the same Name with Prince *Mirabel*, and of a Perswasion that favour'd his and the Outed Courtiers Interests: But even here they were short of their Aim, for those they could not Punish soon made their Innocence appear in the Eye of the World, and the Vote they gave against them within Doors, had no other Effect, than to increase their Friends, Without.

From

From hence they went upon Ways and Means to raise what they had Voted for the Service of the Publick; and amongst other Projects, resolv'd to lay a large Impost upon a certain Grain which they infus'd into Water, and was their common Drink; and because they bore no good Will to a Northern-Country who, from being Independent of the *Britomartian* Decreto's, was annex'd as a Province to that Empire, laid it equally on the Grain of that Climate with their own, tho' it bore not one Quarter of the Price there as it did in *Britomartia*; and the Diet was told by their Deputies, that the People were unable to bear such a heavy Burthen; and that such a Procedure would be so far from raising the Sums intended, that it would lessen what formerly arose from a more moderate Impost; Because the Husbandman would rather let his Ground lie Fallow, than ruin himself by Ploughing it, that the Subside might enjoy the Fruits of it. But neither Justice nor Reason, carry'd any Conviction with Men resolv'd to go on with Measures that were so much the more adviseable, and conducive to the Payment of their own Pensions, by how much the more Grievous and Oppressive; and the major Part of the *Proatins* divested of all
Bowels

Bowels of Compassion for the Miseries of a People whom the Poverty of their Soil had made Necessitous enough before, would have it, that a Decreto should be made for that Purpose, tho' it was Invasive of the Liberties of that injur'd Province, and Destructive of the very Being of that Covenant by which it was conjoin'd with, and annex'd to *Britomartia*.

As the Instrument that was drawn up for this Purpose met with no considerable Obstruction, by reason of the small Number of Deputies that had any regard for Honour and Justice, amongst the *Pro-atins*; so it was not in the Power of the *Mandarines* who, otherwise, were Persons of undisputed Integrity to reject it, because they were incapacitated by the very Constitutions of the Empire, from making Amendments to any Decreto that was promulged for raising any Subsidy, or Impost, for the Support of the Government. However, tho' it was not practicable for these Noble Personages to alter, or reject any Decreto's of this Nature, it was lawful for them to give the first Hand to another that testify'd their Dislike of it. Therefore the gallant *Bell-campo*, Senior, one of that Illustrious Order, and an *Altiterranean* by Birth, (for the

the Province which it was intended for the Ease of, was call'd *ALTITERRA*) having, in vain, Remonstrated to the Empress, That his Countrymen bore with great Impatience, the Violation of some Articles of the *Pacta Conventa*, wherein this Impost was one, and very likely to prompt them to declare the Decreto that Cemented them into one Empire with the *Britomartians*, void; and receiv'd no satisfactory Answer in that Point; made a Motion amongst the *Mandarines*, that a Day might be set a-part to consider the Grievances of that Part of the Empire before mention'd. Accordingly a Day was appointed, and SEFELIO, a Person of great Address, and Experience in the Constitution of his Country, told them, *That since the Consolidatory Decreto which had form'd the Two Nations into One, had not those good Effects as were expected, and hoped for from it, when it was made; he was of Opinion, that another ought to have the Imperial Sanction for abrogating and rend'ring it void:* Which occasion'd a long and warm Speech from *Borelio*, another *Mandarine*, wherein he endeavour'd to shew, That the Complaints of the *Altiterraneans* were Groundless, and the abrogating of the Decreto impracticable, not without some Reflections on

on the Poverty of that Nation; the last of which Points was granted by one of the Opposite Interest, *who allow'd it to be Poor, and therefore unable to Pay the Imposts upon that sort of Grain which had been before Complain'd of.* The Younger *Bellcampo* likewise exerted his Talent in Defence of his Country, saying, 'That when the Treaty of Consolidation was made, the *Aliterraneans* concluded the Diet of *Britomartia* would never go about to lay any Imposition that they had reason to believe was Burdensome; and having set forth their Inability to Pay the Duty upon Grain concluded for the *Mandarine Sefelio's* Motion. To which *Mordamanno* reply'd, 'That the *Altiterraneans* were a People never to be satisfy'd; that they would have all the Advantages of being join'd to *Britomartia*, but would pay nothing by their good Will; and, that they had more Centenaries from *Britomartia*, than all their Estates amounted to in all their Country. This nettled the Elder *Bellcampo*, who declar'd, 'That he was, by some, Reflected on, as if he was Discontented, and had chang'd Sides, but that he despised their Persons as much as he disesteem'd their Judgments: That it was true he had a great Hand in making the Con-

solidatory

' *solidatory* Decreto; that the chief Rea-
 ' son that mov'd him to it, was the Secu-
 ' ring the Entail of the Imperial Diadem
 ' upon the Family it was settled on; but
 ' that he was satisfy'd, that might be done
 ' then, if the Decreto were disannul'd;
 ' that he spoke as a *Mandarine* of *Brito-*
 ' *martia* as well as *Altiterra*; that he be-
 ' liev'd, in his Conscience, 'twas as much
 ' for the Interest of *Britomartia*, as of *Al-*
 ' *titerra*, to have it annul'd and rescin-
 ' ded; and if it were not, he did not ex-
 ' pect long to have either Property left
 ' in *Altiterra*, or Liberty in *Britomartia*.
 He likewise insisted, ' That the Impost
 ' upon Grain in *Altiterra* was very un-
 ' equal, (tho' the same as in *Britomartia*)
 ' because the Product of Earth in the first
 ' was Three parts in Four less than that
 ' in the last; and concluded, if it must be
 ' Collected in his Country, there was no
 ' other way to do it, but in a Military-
 ' way, as they rais'd Contributions by
 ' Arm'd Legions. Some other *Altiterra-*
 ' *nean* Noblemen said, ' That the End of
 ' the *Consolidatory* Decreto, was the cul-
 ' tivating an Amity and Friendship be-
 ' tween the Two Nations; but it was so
 ' far from having that Effect, that they
 ' were sure the Animosities between the
 ' Two Northern and Southern Climates
 G were

' were greater now than before the De-
 ' creto was promulged: That it might be
 ' easily prov'd, by many Instances, that
 ' some Persons agreed better when they
 ' were asunder than when together; and
 ' for that Reason they believ'd, if it were
 ' annull'd again, the Two Nations would
 ' be better Friends. The chief Syndike
 made a Speech against such an Abrogation,
 with great Vehemence, as a Thing hard-
 ly possible to be done, and was back'd by
 the chief *Fiscalian*, the *Mandarine Novi-*
cus, who alledg'd, ' That *Sefelio's* Mo-
 ' tion was no less strange than unexpect-
 ' ed; that the *Consolidatory* Decreto be-
 ' ing made by two distinct Diets of both
 ' Nations, he did not see how it could
 ' be Abrogated now they were in differ-
 ' ent Circumstances from what they were
 ' when it was made; because the Power
 ' that made it was no more in Being;
 ' and nothing could make it void but the
 ' Power that created it; concluding, that
 ' if the *Altiterraneans* had any Grievan-
 ' ces to complain of, there might be some
 ' other Method thought of to Redress
 ' them, without proceeding to that extra-
 ' ordinary way of rescinding the Decreto,
 ' which had been made in the most so-
 ' lemn Manner, and brought about with
 ' the greatest Difficulty, after very many
 ' fruitless

' fruitless Attempts to accomplish it be-
 ' fore. When the most Unerring *Luteolo*
 ' answer'd him, by ' Representing the
 ' Advantages of that *Decreto*, had the
 ' Views with which it was made been
 ' steadily pursu'd, tho' he had given his
 ' Voice against it, when it was in Agita-
 ' tion before the Diet, as one that was
 ' fearful of the Consequences that would
 ' arise from it. To which he added,
 ' That tho' the Two Nations were then
 ' in other Circumstances than when it
 ' was made, yet the same Power that
 ' was in the Two Diets when they were
 ' separated and distinct; was lodg'd in
 ' them, now they were Consolidated, and
 ' therefore, if they had the Power to
 ' make it, they certainly had to annul it;
 ' and that he knew not any Thing but
 ' what the Diet could do, except destroy-
 ' ing the present CONSTITUTION,
 ' which he own'd was not in their Power;
 ' that the Inconveniences that had at-
 ' tended the *Decreto* could not be fore-
 ' seen till the Tryal was made; and, that
 ' since the *Altiterraneans*, who were the
 ' best Judges of their own Affairs, found
 ' that it did not answer the Ends pro-
 ' pos'd, he was for annulling it. In a
 ' Word, the Result of the whole Debate,
 ' after a Contention of some Hours length,

was, that the Decreto should be in Force as before, and the Court *Mandarines* had the Prevalence over the contrary Party, who fell short of their Number but by Four Voices; which apparently shew'd, there were Grounds enough for Complaint, tho' they had not Interest enough to remedy the Wrongs contain'd in it.

The rest of the Session was all of a Piece with this, and the *Montalti* still got the better of those that were for a more moderate Temperament, in every thing that fell under Debate. When, after they had provided for the Cravings of the Courtiers, by immense Supplies, even, tho' those at the Helm were Complimented for their Frugality and good Husbandry, while they were oblig'd to exercise the greatest Extravagance in keeping their Adherents firm to their Interest, and had made a formal shew of Enquiring into the Nature of the Peace, and the several Steps that had been taken in it, they apply'd themselves to a narrow search into those Articles of it, that concern'd the *Mercatorial Port* of the Empire, and which *Palatina* had been told, by those about Her, were extreamly Advantageous and Beneficial to Her People.

Now

Now it seem'd, That *Britomartia*, by its Scituation, and the Multitude of its Navigatio's, had attain'd to the greatest Perfection imaginable, not only in the Art of Sailing, but the Business of Trade, it being provided with such Necessaries that were the Growth of it, that scarce any other Climate was possess'd of, and furnish'd with Manufactures for Clothing, &c. that no other Climate could be without. Therefore it was but Justice for those who had the Interest of their Country at Heart, to look what Care had been taken of that great Branch of the Empire's Revenue in the late Consultations; and, when an Instrument was brought in by some of the *Proatins*, to pass into a Decreto, for making good such Parts of the Treaty as wanted the Ratification of the Diet, to examine what they were deficient in.

Don *Arthuro* was the Man fix'd upon, and thought best able to draw it up, because it was he that first enter'd into, and consented to those Stipulations; but the first View of the Design of it was so obvious to the Meanest Capacity, that it was no sooner made Publick, but Complaints came from all Quarters, That if the *Proatins* suffer'd that Instrument to obtain

tain the Name of a Decreto, the Navigatorial Intercourse with other Nations, except *Lilliana*, would be quite lost to them. For such Advantages were thereby given up to the latter, even when the *Britomartians* had it in their Power to make them submit to what Terms they pleas'd, that the Conquerors seem'd to have chang'd Conditions with the Conquer'd, and the Rewards of Victory were wholly surrender'd up to the Vanquish'd Party.

However the Decreto had been certainly promulg'd, could the *Montalti* have agreed among themselves: But Don *Thomasio* was Hot and Cholerick, and thought too little Notice had been taken of his great Services by *Novicius*, the *Fiscalio*; wherefore resolving to let the Prime *Consiliario* know his Mistake, and the Measures he was to take for the future, if he intended to keep him steady, so brought it about by the Interest he had with Don *Aislaio*, one of the Directors of the *Thalassiano*, Don *Pitsaccio*, one of the Deputies that represented a Whole Province, and Don *Annesio*, an Inspector into National Mismanagements, that they quite defeated the Court Scheme, and the Decreto, was flung out of

of Doors to cool itself, and gain more Strength against another Opportunity.

This good Action of theirs made some Atonement for all the ill Ones they had been guilty of, for some time last past, in the Opinion of the Vulgar, and Publick Rejoycings were made in the Metropolis for the Success of it. But it was not long before he and his Accomplices were lur'd over to their former Practices; and had such a Mist flung over their Eyes, that they could no longer see what was apparent before, or give Ear to the Voice of Truth and Reason; but mov'd, by their Principal, Don *Thomasio*, that Publick Thanks should be given to the Empress for making such Provision in the Articles *del Commercio*, for the good of Her Subjects, and to use all possible Means to make those Articles take Effect. So unstable are Men's Minds, when set in View of Preferment, and so given to fluctuate in their Opinions, when the tempting Baits of Profits and Dignity over-balance their Resolves.

To come to a Conclusion, these Contradictory Proceedings having been follow'd by other specious Pretences for the Wellfare and Tranquillity of the Empire;

pire; after the several Imposts were laid, that were thought necessary for the Support of the Government, and its Dependents; the Empress *Palatina*, came in into their Assembly, and giving them Thanks for what they had not done, as well as what they had, dismiss'd them from any further Attendance, to their respective Abodes, there to consult the good of their Country. Which how they perform'd in the General Diet, has been made appear in the Course of the foregoing History, that has told the Reader some Particulars, which the Author could have wish'd had never happen'd; Since how remote soever the Age they were Transacted in, is from Ours, it is but too well known, thro' fatal Experience, that past Examples, of all sorts of Tendency, as well Bad as Good, have had their Influence upon succeeding Times.



*A LIST of such Persons
among the Proatins that
accepted Places of Trust, or
Honour, during the sitting of
the Diet.*

DON Novicius, Senior

Don Henrico

Don Roberto

Don Novicius, Junior

Don Casareo

Don Gwenio

Don Gwaltereo

Don Fabrario

Don Stanwagio

Don Worosleio

Don Edvardo Foletano

Don Frankcalano

Don Wyndesio

Don Guardano

Don Clerico

Don Montiano

H

Don

Don *Agriano*
 Don *Virago*
 Don *Vincentio*
 Don *Thomasio Foletano*
 Don *Phillippo Foletano*
 Don *Kendricko*
 Don *Bellmontio*
 Don *Thalassiano*
 Don *Haradresio*
 Don *Horatio*
 Don *Leesio*
 Don *Mauritano*
 Don *Phelpio*
 Don *Stephano*
 Don *Semperagro*
 Don *Navigio*
 Don *Lutweio*
 Don *Webelio*
 Don *Wingtonio*
 Don *Famelico*
 Don *Dupilino*
 Don *Bertudo*
 Don *Lochiarto*
 Don *Vindsorio, Jun.*
 Don *Chetvenio*
 Don *Annesio*

Don

Don Mosteyio
Don Bruciano
Don Comitono
Don Gwillobio
Don Magnivillo
Don Masamino
Don Vindsorio, Senior
Don Bathurio
Don Cockarano
Don Fitsano
Don Bernardo Magnivillo
Don Stuartiado
Don Pretioso
Don Cotonio
Don Powfitano

Nos Numerus sumus, &c.

* * Sed defunt Multi.

* * * * *

F I N I S.

Don Melchior
Don Benito
Don Domingo
Don Gabriel
Don Ignacio
Don Mariano
Don Prospero
Don Benito
Don Cecilio
Don Felipe
Don Benito
Don Simón
Don Isidro
Don Esteban
Don Juan



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